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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 1

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A GENTLEMAN

(Psalm 15)

'Tis he whose every thought and deed
By rule of virtue moves;
Whose generous tongue despairs to speak
The thing his heart disproves.

Who never did a slander forge
His neighbor's fame to wound;
Nor hearken to a false report
By malice whispered round.

Who vice in all its pomp and power
Can treat with just neglect;
And piety, though clothed in rags,
Religiously respect.

Who to his plighted word of truth
Has ever firmly stood;
And, though he promised to his loss,
Still makes his promise good.

Whose soul in usury despairs
His treasure to employ;
Whom no reward can ever bribe
The guiltless to destroy.

THE CHURCH TODAY

How is the Church viewed by the general public today? The view of each person might vary a little, but on the whole, the Church is not a highly valued institution in today's world. She is thought to be weak and narrow. Some hate and loath the Church. Others just don't think about her, while more consider her antiquated and useless. Some, still, give her lip service, but ignore what she has to say. Very few hold her in reverence and give heed to her advice or rulings.

Why should the Church be considered in such low terms? Some of her problems come from Satan, who promotes the more enjoyable ways of the world. Some has come from human nature; people do not want to be told that their ways are not the right ways. Some has come from the democratic spirit, that has made each person the master of their own destiny. Each is going to do his own thing, whatever anyone else, including the Church, thinks about it. Unfortunately, much of the Church's low rating in the minds and hearts of the general public is her own fault.

The perception held by many today has been fostered by the Church's own activities and pronouncements. There is a perception that the Church does not speak to a modern world but one which has passed decades or centuries ago. The Church has become for many nothing more than a social organization. For these people she provides what clubs and lodges had provided in past decades. Often her social entertainments were somewhat scaled back from the world's social activities. They were not quite as risque or openly wicked as those in the nearby world. Sports, dances, theater, movies and other social activity came into the Church and made

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her, at least for awhile, a popular gathering place. Although once her people had gotten a taste of these things, they wanted the full-blown activities of the world. Soon they left the Church behind, although they paid her some lip-service. The Church failed in her social responsibilities, by giving them to the civil government. She not only did not provide care and help to the needy and hurting around her, but she even abdicated her responsibility for caring for her own members. She saw the increase in governmental social programs as a way for her to lessen her financial burden and her physical exertion. As the government began to take over these social duties, the Church began to have a greater interest in governmental affairs. The Church wasn't willing to provide these services, but she still wanted to have a part in telling the government how to provide these same services. This made it necessary to become involved in politics, for the government listens to groups that make themselves heard through numbers and ballots. So the Church became involved in supporting candidates and issues, often working with other groups which did not have the same moral ideals.

Perhaps, the Church's biggest problem has been her own perception of her task and position in the world. The Church, as a whole, suffers from low self esteem. She does not realize what a noble position she has nor the great privilege she has been given, nor the holy message that is hers to deliver. The world will not have a high opinion of the Church if the Church, herself, does not have a high view of her own position. The Church has been given the only message that will save souls and transform lives. The Church has been given the privilege of evangelizing the world by spreading the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The Church is the only bride of Christ. The Church has a great task to do and the power to do it. God would have been cruel to her if He had not given her the authority to do what He commissioned her to do. The Church should be delivering a message to the world, instead of letting the world dictate what she does and believes. She needs to present an attitude and posture before the world, potential members and her own people that she is about The Father's business. The Church needs to be the Church. She does not need the advice nor the activities of the world to carry out her holy task.

The Church is much more than a worldly organization. It is the only soul saving station available to mankind. It is the Church that shows him the way to God and the way to please God. It is the Church which can transform lives through the teachings of the Bible, the fellowship of the saints and the setting of godly standards for her members.

The Church is more than an organization; it is a living body made up of the children of God, purchased through the gift of His Son,

Jesus Christ. It is empowered by the Holy Spirit, thus it has the necessary strength to do what it is set here to do. The Church is as important and able as it thinks it is.

The Church can only be as strong and self-assured as the members who compose her. What do you think of the Church? How important is she to you? How important is her task to you? What are you doing to help fulfill her mission in this world?

MCC

THE CHURCH AND THE WORLD

The Church and the World walked far apart
On the changing shore of time;
The World was singing a giddy song,
And the Church a hymn sublime.

"Come, give me your hand," cried the merry world,
"And walk with me this way,"
But the good Church hid her snowy hand,
And solemnly answered, "Nay,
I will not give you my hand at all,
And I will not walk with you;
Your way is the way of eternal death,
And your words are all untrue."

"Nay, walk with me but a little space,"
Said the World with a kindly air;
"The road I walk is a pleasant road,
And the sun shines always there;
Your way is narrow and thorny and rough,
While mine is flowery and smooth;
Your lot is sad with reproach and toil,
But in circles of joy I move.

"My way, you can see, is a broad, fair one,
And my gate is high and wide;
There is room enough for you and for me,
To travel side by side."
Half shyly the Church approached the World,
And gave him her hand of snow;
And the false World grasped it and walked along,
Saying in accents low;

"Your dress is too simple to please my taste,
I have gold and pearls to wear;
Rich velvets and silks for your graceful form,
And diamonds to deck your hair."

The Church looked down at the plain white robes,
And then at the dazzling World,
And blushed as she saw his handsome lip,
With a smile contemptuous curl.

"I will change my dress for a costlier one,"
Said the Church with a smile of grace;
Then her pure white garments drifted away
And the World gave in their place
Satins and silks and seal skins rare
And roses and gems and pearls;
And over her forehead fell her bright hair,
Crisped in a thousand curls.

"Your house is too plain," said the proud old World,
"I'll build you one like mine,
With kitchen for feasting and parlor for play,
And furniture never so fine.
So he built her a costly and beautiful house –
Splendid it was to behold
Her sons and her daughters met frequently there,
Shining in purple and gold.

And fair and festival – frolics untold,
Were held in the place of prayer.
And maidens bewitching as sirens of old,
With worldly graces rare,
Invented the cunningest tricks.
Untrampled by Gospel or Laws,
To beguile and amuse and win from the World,
Some help for the righteous cause.

The Angel of Mercy flew over the Church,
And whispered, "I know thy sin;"
Then the Church looked sad and anxiously longed
To gather the children in;
But some were off at the midnight ball,
And some at the Euchre or play;
And some were drinking in gay saloons,
As she quietly went her way.

Then the sly World gallantly said to her,
"Your children mean no harm,
Merely indulging in innocent sports;"
So she leaned on his proffered arm,
And smiled and chatted and gathered flowers,
As she walked along with the World;
While millions and millions of precious souls
To the horrible pit were hurled!

"Your preachers are all too old and plain,"
Said the gay world, with a sneer;
"They frighten my children with dreadful tales,
Which I do not like them to hear."

"They talk of Judgment, a Coming Lord,
And the horrors of endless night;
They warn of a place that should not be
Mentioned to ears polite!
I will send you some of a better stamp
Modern and brilliant and fast;
Who will show how men may live as they list,
And go to Heaven at last.

"The Father is merciful, great and good,
Loving and tender and kind;
Do you think he would take one child to Heaven
And leave another behind?

"Go train your teachers up to the times,
Adopt the stylish way;
We all want entertainment fine,
And only that will pay."
So she called for pleasing and gay Divines,
Gifted, and great and learned,
And the plain old men that preached the Cross
Were out of her pulpits turned.

Then Mammon came in and supported the Church
Renting a prominent pew;
And preaching and singing and floral display,
Proclaimed a period new.

"You give too much to the poor," said the World,
"Far more than you ought to do;
Though the poor need shelter, food and clothes,
Why need it trouble you?

"And afar to the heathen in foreign lands,
Your thoughts need never roam;
The Father of Mercies will care for them,
Let Charity begin at home.
"Go take your money and buy rich robes,
And horses and carriages fine;
And pearls and jewels and dainty food,
And the rarest and costliest wine.

"My children they dote on all such things,
And if you their love would win,
You must do as they do and walk in the ways
That they are walking in."

Then the Church her purse-strings tightly held,
And gracefully lowered her head,
And simpered, "I've given too much away,
I will do so, sir, as you have said

So the poor were turned from her door in scorn,
And she heard not the orphan's cry;
And drew her beautiful robes aside
As the widows went weeping by.

Her Mission treasures beggarly pled,
And Jesus' commands were in vain;
While half of the millions for whom He died
Had never heard His name.

And they of the Church and they of the World,
Walked closely hand and heart,
And none but the Master, who knoweth all
Could tell the two apart.

Then the Church sat down at their ease and said,
"I am rich and in goods increased;
I have need of nothing and nought to do,
But to laugh and dance and feast."

And the sly World heard her and laughed within,
And mockingly said aside,
"The Church has fallen, the beautiful Church,
And her shame is her boast and pride."

Thus her witnessing power, alas! was lost,
And the perilous times came in;
The times of the end, so often foretold,
Of form and pleasure and sin.

Then the angel drew near the mercy-seat,
And whispered in sighs her name;
And the saints their anthems of rapture hushed
And covered their heads with shame.

And a voice came down from the hush of heaven,
From Him that sat on the throne;
"I know thy works and what thou hast said,
And how thou hast not known,

That thou art poor, and naked, and blind,
With pride and ruin enthralled.

The expectant Bride of a Heavenly Groom,
Now the harlot of the World!

"Thou has ceased to watch for that Blessed Hope,
And hast fallen from zeal and grace;
So now, alas! I must cast thee out,
And blot thy name from its place."

Selected by Sister Ruth Snyder

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 1, 1934

TIME PASSES ON

L. W. Beery

Another year of time has passed swiftly by and as we pause for a moment on the threshold of the New Year our thoughts turn to the passing of time. It is evident to all, that whether we wake or sleep, work or play, rejoice or weep or whatever we do, time passes on; nor can we change it, for the living God has said, "While the earth remaineth, seedtime and harvest, and cold and heat, and summer and winter, and day and night shall not cease." (Gen. 8:22). Thus we spend our sojourn here beholding the glory of the rising and setting sun, the moon and the innumerable stars of the universe, each following its appointed course through the heavens with utmost precision. The seasons come and go, the sunshine and showers nourish the growing crops year after year, generations come and go, nations rise and fall and still time goes on. In fact, everything has continued on in this manner for so long that the human family has to a large extent forgotten that there is a great Power that has appointed all these things and is sustaining them until the appointed time is fulfilled.

As time goes on we have various experiences. There are seasons of joy and also of sorrow; there are times of prosperity and others of adversity. In the course of a lifetime our pathway is sometimes in pleasant places while most of us experience many hardships. Many of these experiences either for good or bad are the result of our conduct. Regardless of the manner of life we live or the experiences which we have we know for a certainty our pathway ultimately leads us to the silent tomb.

Each year many of our neighbors, friends and loved ones are taken from us by this grim reaper, death. This continually reminds us of the fact that some day we too, must answer the summons. Naturally the question arises, how shall we meet it? This too, depends largely on our conduct in life. Some depart this life in doubt and despair, others in uncertainty and fears, while others

pass on peacefully, with a definite assurance of a better life beyond. While our minds are dwelling on this matter, since life is so uncertain, we might ask ourselves the question, if the death summons should come to me just now how would it find me, prepared or unprepared? From the knowledge we have of the experiences of others, those who "fear God and keep His commandments" are the only ones that depart this life in a way which we would desire to go. Many such give a glowing testimony of a living faith that carries them safely over the chilly waters of death.

As we live on year after year, just what does life mean to us? Are we profiting any by the experiences of the past? Our God has created us intelligent beings with the expectation that we make use of the intelligence to our good and His glory. Thus with life comes opportunity and with opportunity comes responsibility which we cannot shun, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ, that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad." (II Cor. 5:10).

As we look back over the past year of life, it might be well to compare it with the preceding years and see if we are making any improvement in our manner of life. We are told in Job 22:7, "Days should speak, and multitude of years should teach wisdom," so in the light of this, as we grow older in years the experience which we have should teach us how to conduct ourselves more acceptably in the sight of God and man. In view of the fact that we must some time stand before the judgment seat of Christ where we must give account for our conduct here it certainly behooves us to put forth every effort to live above reproach and condemnation; especially so, since we have the standard of life which is acceptable with our Maker so clearly given to us. Then too, with all the warnings that are given us in the Bible we certainly will be without excuse, "if we neglect so great salvation; which at the first began to be spoken by the Lord, and was confirmed unto us by them that heard him; God also bearing them witness, both with signs and wonders and with divers miracles, and gifts of the Holy Ghost according to his own will." (Heb. 2:3-4).

Upon consideration, should we find that the past year of life has not been as creditable to us as we could have made it, may we not resolve with the turning over of a new leaf to profit by the experiences of the past and exercise greater care in the use of our time, talents and abilities as we enter the New Year; ever mindful of the fact that we must depend on help from above to succeed in our effort.

Looking to Jesus the author and finisher of our faith let us bid the old year adieu and launch out with faith, hope, courage and determination into the year 1934.

OUR AIM: TO BE MORE RIGHTEOUS

I John 2:29, "If ye know that he is righteous, ye know that every one that doeth righteousness is born of him."

Every time a Bible Monitor enters your home you will see the following words. "OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience. There are many different views within Christendom as to what sanctification involves. Along with this comes various views as to how we become more holy and more perfect. Several verses can be quoted that seem to teach a sanctification experience which makes an individual "more holy" and allows them to claim sinless perfection in this life. Alexander Mack, according to some writers, himself claimed such an experience was possible but he never claimed it for himself.

Perhaps a "more thorny" question arises out of an aim to be more righteous. In Isaiah 64:6 we find the words, "... and all our righteousness are as filthy rags;..." We could, perhaps, dismiss this as being Old Testament. But then we are faced with Romans 3:10, "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" The ending of this sentence is even more mind boggling. "There is none that understandeth, there is one that seeketh after God."

If these verses be true, and they are since they are a part of the Holy Word of God, how can I John 2:29 speak of "every one that doeth righteousness?" We believe part of the answer is found in Romans 4:6-7, "Even as David also describeth the blessedness of the man, unto whom God imputeth righteousness without works, saying, Blessed are they whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered." The word "impute" in Hebrew is "hashav" and in Greek it is "logizomai". It is "a word meaning to attribute something to a person or reckoning something to the account of another." We believe our righteousness is actually imputed righteousness. That is, when God looks at us who are born again he sees the Lord Jesus Christ who stands in our place. However, taken too far this leads to a belief in unconditional eternal security and does not answer the question concerning those who "doeth righteousness."

The answer to this quandary, as we see it, is the fact that we are free moral agents. Some who teach unconditional eternal security agrees with this but claim that we lose this freedom when we are saved. As the Bible Monitor Aim states, our desire to be more righteous must come through faith and obedience.

Matthew 5:6 tells us, "Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." What will they be filled with? We believe the answer is not "what" but "who" they will be filled with. We are, of course, speaking of the blessed Holy

Spirit, the third person of the Trinity. This answers the question how anyone can be saved if "there is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." However, we believe this verse goes beyond the salvation experience. It is only after we are saved that we can "hunger and thirst after righteousness." We only receive the Holy Spirit one time, unless we depart from the faith, but we can be filled with the Holy Spirit many times. If our aim is to be more righteous we must seek and desire these fillings. For it is only through the power of the Holy Spirit that we can be more righteous.

In Matthew 5:20 we read, "For I say unto you, That except your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, ye shall in no case enter into the kingdom of heaven." As we understand the kingdom of heaven (and the kingdom of God, one and the same) is both a present reality in the form of the true Church and a future hope. We believe that both applications would apply with Christ's statement. In the first place the only way we can enter into the kingdom of heaven present it to accept the person and work of our Lord Jesus Christ. We must be willing to be washed in His blood and baptized as He instructed. We hesitate to be overly dogmatic about our next statement. Only God knows for sure who will enter the pearly gates of Heaven. Yet we must take very seriously the teachings of our Lord that follow this statement. If we wish to be "more righteous" and enter into Heaven we must seriously desire to avoid several things. Being angry with a brother in the Lord without a cause, having lust in our heart, avoiding divorce and remarriage, not swearing an oath, be willing to resist not evil (nonresistance) and love our enemies.

We return to our opening verse that speaks of "every one that doeth righteousness." In II Corinthians 5:21 we read, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." In order to do righteousness we must have Jesus Christ to stand in our place, as we previously said. Therefore, our desire should be to be more like Jesus Christ. The Apostle Paul said the following in II Timothy 4:7, "I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith." Then he adds, "Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing." Those that "love his appearance" are those who "have fought a good fight" and "have kept the faith." May our aim be to be more righteous through faith and obedience that we may claim this crown of righteousness.

WHO IS ON THE LORD'S SIDE?

Exodus 32:26

There is no neutrality in religion. In other things there are cases in which neutrality is possible, if not admired or commended. In family disputes, the quarrels of neighbors, it may be good to stay neutral. Two nations may wage war against each other, and waste their resources, and a third nation may remain neutral, not risking its own. Some may think that in politics it is wise to be neutral, but we find that a stand must be taken, regardless of the opinion. To be neutral in politics is to be disowned by both parties.

Such is the case with religion. There can be no neutrality. "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one and despise the other. Ye cannot serve God and mammon." "Whosoever will be the friend of the world is the enemy of God." "If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him." But there are some, blessed be God, who are with Him on His side. This is their glory, and this should be their joy. They are with him, and on His side now, and they shall be with Him forever. They are now suffering with Him, and they shall "reign with Him." They are now bearing the "reproach of the cross." They shall soon share with Him in the glory of the crown. They are now on His side: engaged in the toils of the fight, and they shall soon be with Him in the triumphs of victory. He will fulfill His own words: "Him that overcometh will I grant to sit with me on my throne." "Ye are they," He says, "who have continued with me in my temptations. I appoint unto you a kingdom, as my Father hath appointed unto me; that ye may eat and drink at my table in my kingdom, and sit on thrones, judging the twelve tribes of Israel." If we are on the Lord's side, we are on the right side, the safe side, the rising side.

We are on the side which, by and by, will annihilate the opposite side, and become a universality. We are with Him. Here is the Saviour – here are His people. They are weak, He is Almighty. He is at their head. Therefore we need not be afraid to go forward. Let us therefore come to a decision, seeing there can be no middle-ground between loving Christ and hating Him; and when the dispute is between God and Baal, there can be no "halting between two opinions." Let us also remember that we are not only required to "cease to do evil," but "learn to do well;" and that every tree which bringeth not forth good fruit, is "hewn down and cast into the fire."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

Angels Weeping

J. H. Moore

There came to my desk a letter unlike anything received for years. It showed certain conditions that deserve more than a passing notice, and I tell the story for the benefit of others.

A devout Christian mother has raised a family of children. She has gathered around her boys and girls that ought to be a credit to any mother. From the time her children were babes she has been exceedingly careful how she conducted herself in their presence. Not an unbecoming word has intentionally escaped her lips. Her children have been taught to love the Bible and even to reverence the church. They have a great regard for their mother's church, believing that it is the true church of God. In the presence of her children she has never spoken one uncomplimentary word about the church or any of the members. Her most earnest desire has been to raise her children for the Lord, and for that reason she has endeavored to cultivate in them a right regard for the church and all those connected with the body of Christ.

As a result her children had the members in high esteem, and especially the ministers. They looked upon a minister of the Brethren church as a truly consecrated man, who, in every particular, meant to do only the right thing. They knew a preacher only to love and respect him. But there came into her neighborhood a minister who proved not to be an exemplary man. Even his conversation is unbecoming a minister. His deportment is not up to the average conduct of well-meaning outsiders. The man seems to take no special interest in reaching a higher plane in the Christian life. As a minister he is no credit to either the church or the community. He is a detriment rather than a help to the cause.

The life of this minister is having a bad effect upon the sister's children. Some of them are old enough to unite with the church. But they have no confidence in this preacher. His manner of life does not impress them. They see and hear things that they know are not becoming one who stands behind the sacred desk. They listen to his preaching, but have no confidence in what he says, and will not unite with the church while he remains. The mother is troubled. She now sees no way of getting her children in the church. Her own faith is strong enough to carry her over troubles and obstacles of this kind, but that is not the case with her well-raised and intelligent children. She is at a point in life where she does not know what to

do. She can only weep and pray. She says it is enough to make the angels weep.

I need not tell who this preacher is. I do not know, but some day he will be called upon to give a fearful account at the judgment bar of God. But in the meantime it might be well for each minister to go into a self-examination, to see whether or not he is standing in the way of some earnest mother's children. It is possible that some preacher may be doing this very thing and not know it. It is a most fearful thing to be the means of keeping anyone out of heaven. But it is being done in more places than one, and well may the angels weep.

OBITUARY

CHRISTINA HAMILTON

Sis. Christina (Schultz) Hamilton died Saturday, October 30, 1993 at the age of 93. She was born August 1, 1900 in Stuttgart, Arkansas to John and Fanny Nofzinger. Funeral services were held November 2, 1993, at Canby Funeral Chapel, Canby, Oregon, by Elder Galen Litfin of Newberg, Oregon. Job 5:26 was read. Sister Christina Hamilton was laid to rest at Zion Mennonite Cemetery, near Hubbard, Oregon.

On July 9, 1919 she married Elmer Schultz. He died June 24, 1963. Later she married Alvin Hamilton. He died in June, 1971. Preceding her in death was a daughter, Helen Troyer.

She is survived by daughters, Esther Roedel of Newberg, Oregon; Ruth Barrow of Canby, Oregon; Florence Hostetler of Michigan; Mabel Bontrager of Monmouth, Oregon and Barbara Skaale of Portland, Oregon; sons, Daniel Schultz of Oregon City, Oregon and Carl Schultz of Ontario; two sisters, Addie Davis of Portland, Oregon and Eileen Robbeloth of San Diego, California; a brother, Lester Nofzinger of Six Lakes, Michigan. She had twenty two grandchildren, forty one great-grandchildren and eight great-great-grandchildren.

Sis. Hamilton who was baptized a Mennonite, later was baptized by Trine immersion into the Dunkard Brethren Church, on November 8, 1975. She was 75 at the time.

A MEMORY OF MOTHER

One memory of Mother goes back to childhood of her hanging up

clothes to dry, and singing loud and clear "Rescue the Perishing", "Love Lifted Me", "Let the Lower Lights Be Burning" and so forth. She sang from her heart even though she must have been weary from the hard work and caring for all us children with little to work with and never complaining. Seeing her read her Bible as long as her sight was good enough. Her work on earth is done and she has passed from death to life eternal with her Lord, Whom she loved. She left us a Christian Heritage. "Mother." No one can take away those precious memories, of the one who loved so unconditionally. Thank you Lord, for giving her to us. We love you, Mother.

Your Children

* * * * *

A man said, "I thank God for that word 'whosoever.' If God had said there was mercy for Richard, I am so vile a sinner that I would have thought He meant some other Richard; but, when He says whosoever, I know that includes me, the worst of all." If I could come to you from the upper sanctuary, with a letter of invitation with your name and address on it, you would not doubt your warrant to accept it. Well, here is the Bible, — your invitation to come to Christ. It does not bear your name and address; but it says, "Whosoever"; that takes you in. It says, "All;" that takes you in. It says, "If any;" that takes you in. What can be surer and freer than that?

* * * * *

An old writer says, "Suppose a little bird is set to remove this globe by taking from it one grain of sand at a time, and to come only once in a thousand years. She takes her first grain, and away she flies on her long and weary course. When a thousand years have rolled away, she comes panting back for one more grain of sand; and this globe is again lessened by just one grain of its all but countless sands. So the work goes on. That little bird will one day have finished her task, and the last sand will have been taken away; but even then Eternity will have only begun. Its sands are never to be exhausted."

* * * * *

Hunters dig pits in the earth, then cover them over, and place a bait near them to attract the prey, that they may venture upon the treacherous place and fall in. Thus the Devil makes this world his fatal vault, which he strews over with pleasures and delights; the way seems smooth, but it is slippery.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 2

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHAT WILL IT MATTER?

What will it matter by and by,
Whether my crosses are heavy or light,
Whether my pathway was clouded or bright,
When I shall walk with the ransomed in white,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

What will it matter by and by,
Whether my trials are many or few,
Whether the world was unfaithful or true,
When my redeemer in Glory I view,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

What will it matter by and by,
Whether the waters are bitter or sweet,
Murmuring gently or sad at my feet,
When the departed with rapture I greet,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

What will it matter by and by,
Whether I pass with the morning away,
Whether at noon tide or closing of day,
When in the valley of Eden I stray,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

Fanny Crosby

Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

AND ALL YE ARE BRETHREN

Jesus often spoke about the scribes and Pharisees seeking status and position. They wanted their piety to be admired, so they made a public show of it by making broad their phalactories and their garment borders. They prayed on the street corners so all would see how pious they were. For all their piety, Jesus often pointed out how their lives were not in line with their public display. He often called them hypocrites. In fact "Pharisee" has become a synonym for "hypocrite".

Jesus often warned His disciples about the dangers of self promotion. When they, too, sought a place of honor, Jesus deflated their pretensions. He reminded them that ministers were servants not masters. He was the Master; they were equals. They were not to "lord" it over other believers. They were not to assume the Father's prerogative by using His name, "Father", as a title for it is only for God's use. Not even as God's representative, is His name

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to be used by a man. Only God's name is "reverend". No man qualifies to be reverenced as God.

The many "isms and schisms" that have divided Christianity have largely been the result of personalities. Men have conjured strange doctrines or have been unwilling to heed Biblical teachings, so they have formed their own groups. Often the group's name comes from their own name. Some of these leaders have been great men; others have been fakes and phonies. Too often their followers have been too willing to accord them special privileges. They have allowed such leaders to establish their own versions of God's will. Some leaders have not sought this deification, while others have encouraged it. Some have been so securely identified with certain teachings that a mention of their names identifies their teachings. Luther, Knox, Zwingli, Calvin are well known as leaders. Sometimes their disciples would seemingly prefer to follow them rather than the Bible.

The Brethren have been careful to not elevate Alexander Mack to this type of position. He never sought such a position during his lifetime. The original eight members who were baptized in the River Eder, near Schwarzenau, were very careful to not divulge who had baptized Alexander Mack before he baptized the rest of them. They did not want to promote anyone as the founder of a new sect. They wanted to reestablish the old Biblical ways that had been ignored for centuries. They were reestablishing the way that they understood as the Early Church's way of serving God.

Ministers are to be respected but they are not to be revered. They are men called by God through the Holy Spirit's working in the congregation. They are not necessarily any holier or better at living the Christian life than others in the congregation, but they have received from God certain gifts that enable them to fulfill this calling. There is a need for many gifts within a congregation. One person can not have all these gifts, so there is a need for teamwork among the members. It is good when there can be more than one minister in a congregation so there can be more breadth and depth. The ministers become the servants of the members by each contributing what he can.

When Jesus spoke of all being brethren, He included the lay members as well as the official members. He knew the Church could not be strong and viable unless the lay members were strong and involved. The lay members have gifts as well as the officials. These gifts need to be cultivated, improved and used. The Church needs all to make her strong.

With all participating and sharing, the congregation will be strong and will in turn attract others. Where only a handful are involved, others are not as likely to be attracted. People want to feel needed

and known. When there is self promotion and a few take control, the others are shut out and eventually drop out or create situations that may embarrass the congregation.

When all consider themselves brethren, they can accomplish many things together that they could not accomplish alone. The congregation can be built up. It can become a beacon in the community. It can become known for the cooperation and love demonstrated among themselves and toward others. A congregation composed of brethren shows Who her Master is. Brethren working together picture what Jesus desired. He wanted them to abase themselves as He had abased Himself, by so doing they became brethren with Him as their Master. The right relationship within the Church makes for a Church that can better spread the Gospel to others.

Is your attitude one of being a master or a brother?

MCC

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Modern Psychology and the Christian

A deep faith in Jesus Christ is an absolute must in order to cope with the difficult challenges of our age. But I am concerned that we sometimes have a deeper faith in secular psychology than we have in God. People will perk up and listen if you begin throwing around names of people involved in the art of psychology (not science) and yet if you use Biblical psychology, they continue to sit in their pews and yawn or doze off to sleep.

Two kinds of faith prevail in our congregations: faith in God and faith in psychology and they are very much different from each other. Some people even have a difficult time telling them apart. They see the two as coming together which is very questionable. The synthesis of these disciplines are not just two different ways of getting the same thing.

Popular psychology shares much in common with Eastern religion. In fact, today, there is a merger under way to combine the two. So, both religion and psychology are competing faiths. If you seriously hold to one set of values, you will logically have to reject the other.

Was the purpose of Christ's coming to say, "you're okay. I'm okay?" If we have that attitude, we eventually see ourselves incapable of sinning because we can do whatever is right in our own minds. As long as we think positive about what we are doing, we will feel like we can achieve self growth. We dare not let our faith become tangled up in a net of popular ideas about self-esteem and self-fulfillment that are not Christian at all.

What was only a minor confusion a few years ago is mass confusion today. It seems difficult to say any longer where psychology leaves off and modern Christianity begins. Psychology has a seductive influence. It can be substituted for traditional faith. It is evolving as a form of religion and is considered a more efficient and compassionate way of doing good than Christianity. This, of course, is planned by those who would destroy Christianity and turn the world over to New Age thinking. Psychology levels the hills of anxiety and makes the crooked way straight! It is the rod and staff that comforts many confused people.

Why is there so much appeal in psychology for Christians? Most psychologists are hostile to doctrinal Christianity. They appeal to a person's desire to be able to control every situation with his own mind...negating the importance of laying the problem down at the foot of the cross. In some ways, it is a counterfeit and does not deliver on its promises. It instead leads Christians and non-Christians alike away from the obligation of proper Spirit led conduct.

Christianity is more than a psychology and it is better than psychology.

When I studied psychology at the University, I was informed that I was adding to my Christian faith a new dimension that could be very helpful. This idea has led many FORMER Christians down the path of spiritual destruction.

The "Love thy neighbor" teaching of the Bible was astonishing to Freud. It seemed to be easier to "Love and do what you will." Psychology has additional explanations for most every type of human behavior. Erich Fromm said that to love others you first had to love yourself. Is that the context of Christ's teaching? Intellectuals in the church downplay sin as though it is an accidental holdover from the Middle Ages and they try to explain away human behavior out of the context of disobedience to God or turning away from His paths. Good psychology tells us today that we should not teach the Ten Commandments. It tells us that "all knowledge is one!"...whatever that means!

We need to make some hard choices. We may need to renounce our public education training and the aiding and abetting of modern theologians who would remove parts of our faith. We need to understand we are fair targets for their teaching and are considered to be living in the realm of mythology and antiquity. They would have us to place our beliefs in the new realm of psychology and self revelations. But, the Bible would have us to reconsider our faith by the standards of the Master...understanding that our standards of understanding outside of Him are foolishness.

When we mix Christianity and psychology we get "watered-down" Christianity rather than Christianized psychology. It is a subtle satanic deception. It is a wolf in sheep's clothing. And...we are to be the prize sheep.

Psychology has shaken the beliefs of many believers. It is working to make a new hybrid religion in which the two can be mixed and matched.

It is time we shore up our defenses. Possibility thinking, the idea that faith will lead to a healthy personality, a cure for disease and even financial security has to be reconsidered. It is time to get back to Biblical answers to life's questions and problems. Christianity and the Bible are enough.

The average person is no longer scared to hear that his behavior may lead to hell ... but he thinks twice if he hears that it will lead to the state hospital. Practice God's psychology and learn to step more lightly and laugh more heartily because of it. Let God's answers satisfy your needs. He is sufficient. He wants you to be whole. He desires that you be successful in life ... that success being fully Spirit controlled. Look critically at modern psychology and LOOK TO JESUS for the answers.

Brother Len Wertz

GROW IN GRACE

"But grow in grace, and in the knowledge of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. To him be glory both now and for ever. Amen." II Peter 3:18.

There are some who deny growth in grace, as if it were not possible to obtain clearer views of divine truth, to be more patient in tribulation, and to be more concerned for the divine glory and the welfare of those around us. But our Savior hath said that the water He gives us shall be in us "a well of water springing up unto everlasting life." That growth in the divine life IS possible, important, and necessary.

Let us then consider the PRECEPTS of scripture: "Add to your faith virtue, and to virtue knowledge, and to knowledge temperance, and to temperance patience, and to patience godliness, and to godliness brotherly kindness, and to brotherly kindness charity."

If we turn to the EMBLEMS of scripture, we find it thus variedly and beautifully illustrated: "The path of the just is as the shining light, which shineth more and more unto the perfect day." IF we look at the corn growing in the field, there is "first the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear." In God's family there are "babes, young men, and fathers in Christ." All these are intended to convey the idea of progression.

Observe the EXAMPLES of Scripture. The Apostle, writing to the Thessalonians, says "Your faith groweth exceedingly." Then there is the Apostle, himself. Who ever made greater advancements in the divine life than he? And what does he say? "Not as though I had already attained, or were already perfect, but I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus."

In the PROMISES of Scripture this result is abundantly assured to us: "I will be as the dew unto Israel. He shall grow as the lily, and cast forth his roots as Lebanon." "They shall revive the corn, and grow as the vine." "The righteous shall hold on his way, and he that hath clean hands shall wax stronger and stronger."

Let us also consider the ADVANTAGES of thus making progress in spiritual attainments: as we advance we shall be changed from glory to glory. Every step will add to our dignity and to our usefulness. It is thus that we shall adorn the doctrine of God our Saviour in all things, and be an example of a saint of God to all around us. While it will tend to promote the divine glory, it will greatly increase our own comfort and enjoyment, by adding to the evidences of our state and character. And "herein", says the Saviour, "is my father glorified, that ye bear much fruit."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

January 15, 1934

PRAYING OR SAYING OF THE LORD'S PRAYER

C.R. Gehr

We that practice the Lord's prayer, do we pray it with sincere meaning as Jesus taught it?

Jesus says, "After this manner therefore pray ye." (Matt. 6:9)

I believe it is memorized more often than prayed, for we hear it said, "Let us repeat the Lord's prayer."

We get so accustomed to saying and not praying that it becomes so easy to say it by memory and letting our minds dwell on something else.

Again Jesus says, "After this manner therefore pray ye, our Father which art in heaven." Recognizing that there is a great Supreme Being, by whom all things are made perfect and by whom all things exist.

"Hallowed be Thy name." Hallowing is raising the name of our Heavenly Father to a high standard, for there is no other name as

high as the name of our Heavenly Father, "Thou are worthy oh Lord, to receive glory and honor and power, for thou hast created all things, and for thy pleasure they are and were created." (Rev. 4:11)

Folks have the ability to give glory to themselves, they keep the honors, and store them up in their hearts. Thus, Peter calls it vain glory. It should be given to the one to whom it is due.

"Thy kingdom come." Another statement I believe many folks would not ask for if the proper meaning were in their hearts. Christ is coming some day. Are you ready to meet Him? These words I saw printed on card board and nailed to a tree along the road side. It was a piercing statement to read. Although anyone who would read it could understand.

Those that pray, "Thy kingdom come," are asking their Heavenly Father to send His kingdom to earth, which would mean that time was at an end. Would we pray then, "That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven and things in earth and things under the earth. And that every tongue should confess that Jesus is Lord, to the glory of God the Father." (Phil. 2: 10-11.)

"Thy will be done in earth as it is done in heaven." It was the Father's will that Christ should come to earth and die for the sins of the human family.

Christ had confidence in His Father, that whatever the Father willed it would work out well in the end, so prayed to His Father, in the garden, "O My Father, if it is possible let this cup pass from me; nevertheless not as I will, but as Thou wilt." (Matt. 26:39.)

"Give us this day our daily bread." We may think of natural food, but we need food to strengthen our souls as well.

Are all things we partake of on this earth good for our strength as food? Let us see what the wise man says about it.

"Remove far from me vanity and lies, give me neither poverty nor riches, feed me with food convenient for me." (Prov. 30:8.) If we take the food as the Master gives it to us we will not be intemperate, nor gluttonous and it will be convenient for every stage in life, both young and old.

"And forgive us of our debts, as we forgive our debtors." Shall we forgive our debtor just one time, and if he comes back to ask forgiveness should we turn him down and say, I forgave you once? No, but as often as he comes forgive him.

Peter asks Jesus about forgiving till seven times, but Jesus answered him, not till seven times, but until seventy times seven, indicating that we should continually have a forgiving spirit.

Then too, we must apply the golden rule to this, forgive others as we would have them forgive us. Again, I believe as we pray for the forgiveness of our debts, we are forgiven as we forgive others.

There is the spirit of forgiveness again. Are we willing to forgive our debtors as we would have Christ forgive us, or do we forgive and not forget? If we are forgiven by our Heavenly Father scripture says, "As far as the east is from the west, so far hath he removed our transgressions from us." (Ps. 103:12.)

"And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil." We are very often tempted to walk on forbidden paths, but let us remember the word says, "Beloved, believe not every spirit, but try the spirits whether they are of God; because many false prophets are gone out into the world." (I John 4:1.)

As the spirit gave the Revelation to John, the message to write to the church of Philadelphia, which says, "Because thou hast kept the words of My patience, I will also keep thee from the hour of temptation." (Rev. 3:10.) Christ prays to the Father to keep His chosen ones, "I pray not that thou shouldst take them out of the world, but that thou shouldst keep them from the evil." (John 17:15.)

I believe the apostle Paul gives us very much encouragement in his letter to the Corinthians when he says, "God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that which ye are able to bear; but will with the temptation also make a way of escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13.)

And in this present world we need not feel so blue when things do not go well with us, let us think of the song:

There's a dark and troubled side of life,
There's a bright and sunny side too,
Though we meet with the darkest of strife,
The sun will shine again bright and clean.

Chorus --

Keep on the sunny side, always on the sunny side.

"For thine is the kingdom." When Christ was tempted by the evil spirit, on the top of a high mountain and sheweth Him the kingdom of the world, the Devil did not have the kingdom to give, for God created the world and the fullness thereof.

If the kingdom means the kingdom of God or of heaven, the Devil was cast out of heaven, and I can't find that he ever returned or that any of his possessions remained. "For all that is in heaven and in the earth is Thine; Thine is the kingdom, O Lord, and Thou art exalted as head above all." (I Chron. 29:11.)

"And the power and the glory, forever."

"Now unto the King eternal, immortal, invisible, the only wise God, be honor and glory forever and ever, amen."

"Let all the earth fear the Lord, let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe for he spake and it was done; he commanded and it stood fast. Amen." (Ps. 33: 8-9.)

So let it be.

As we go to prayer we should not only think that the Lord's prayer is to be prayed after we make our other petitions; but we should do as Christ said, pray in this manner, or using the Lord's prayer as an example to make up our prayer.

THE TEMPTATION OF JESUS

The temptation of Jesus took place in the wilderness, the actual place unknown. The Spirit led Jesus into the wilderness to be tempted. The Spirit ordained that Jesus through temptations should become the sympathizing friend and Saviour of men. Matthew, Mark and Luke all affirm the agency of the Spirit of God in the temptation of Jesus.

The Spirit evidently led Christ out in the wilderness to lay plans for His future life's work. Luke's narrative differs from that of Matthew in changing the order of the second and third temptations. The one truth which solves all mysteries of the Temptation of Jesus in the minds of the earnest believer is: that He was tempted as the rest of mankind in order that, by victory, He might be their perfect example. In Matthew and Luke we find that Jesus was tempted of the Devil which means a false accuser. Mark is the only one who mentioned about being with wild beasts.

While Jesus was in the wilderness He fasted and prayed. He was so worked up in the Spiritual things of life that He did not think of eating. That is like us today, when one is sick, when we are trying to lend a helping hand we forget about eating and really don't feel hungry. After Christ was tempted He really was weaker physically but was a great deal stronger Spiritually.

The First Temptation of Jesus was to the lust of the flesh. He was to work a miracle to relieve the hunger of the body. God had told them that they could not live by bread alone but by the word that proceedeth out of the mouth of God. We can't live today with just bread. We need the Word of God to help us to go and press forward for the mark which is Christ Jesus.

This Pinnacle of the Temple most likely over looked the Temple Courts, and the deep valley of the Kidron below. These Temptations were direct challenges to Jesus to prove His Divinity. The Devil put Jesus on an exceeding high Mountain and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and the glory of them.

After the Devil left Jesus, an Angel came and ministered unto him. When we are tempted we can have His help, only if we let Him. Many fail to let Jesus help them and prove that He is a Dear Friend. Let us take Jesus as our friend and guide and then when Temptations come we will have a Friend to help us over the rough places of life.

Sister Elizabeth Alltus

OBITUARIES

CHARLES SWITZER

Brother Charles Edward Switzer was the thirteenth of sixteen children, born to Samuel and Anna Switzer on July 17, 1893 in McDonough County, Illinois. He died on November 3, 1993 at the age of 100 years, 3 months, and 17 days. He lived the longest of any of his brothers and sisters. One sister lived to be ninety nine.

He married Ethel Parsons, January 6, 1918. She passed away on November 4, 1920 at the age of twenty two. To them was born a daughter, Doris.

On April 4, 1923 he married Pernia (Root) Barklow. To them were born five children. They celebrated sixty nine years of marriage.

He is survived by his children; Doris Byfield of Empire, California, Kenneth and Fred of Waterford, California, David of Modesto, California, Charles of Vacaville, California and Sharon Litfin of Evans, Colorado; Nineteen grandchildren, forty-nine great-grandchildren and twenty great-great-grandchildren.

In his teens, he took up corn husking and was known as one of the best corn huskers. He worked for Western Grocery Mills while living in Iowa. In 1923 he started working for United Lumber Company in Waterford, California. Later he became manager. He retired from United Lumber in 1953, then worked four more years for Copeland Lumber Company, putting in thirty four years as a worker and manager of lumber yards. He also worked in a Waterford grocery store for several years. After retirement he helped his sons, Fred and David, in the building trade. He spent many hours keeping their little farm free of weeds. He has a collection of old hoes, well used throughout the years.

He was a deacon of the Dunkard Brethren Church. His family and friends will have wonderful memories of him and he will be greatly missed.

Services were held on Monday, November 8, 1993 at the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church. Opening: Elder Rudy Cover; Sermon: Elder Michael Wray; Graveside: Elder Hayes Reed.

JOSEPH E. FLORA

Brother Joseph Eugene Flora was born at Quinter, Kansas on July 14, 1922, the twelfth and youngest child of Josiah and Sarah (Jamison) Flora. He died of heart failure on Thursday, November 4, 1993 at the age of 71 year, 3 months and 20 days. At fourteen years of age he was baptized and became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church at Quinter.

On March 3, 1942 at Minburn, Iowa, he married Arlene Surbey of Stark County, Ohio, who was at that time working in Dallas Center, Iowa. They lived at Quinter, Kansas for two years where he was called to the Deacon's Office in 1943. They, along with his parents, moved to Dallas County, Iowa in March, 1944. He lived in the Dallas Center and Adel area almost all of his adult life.

He was a farmer and for fifteen years was owner/operator of the Flora Implement Company until 1970, when he moved to the farm where he was residing at the time of his death. He retired from farming in 1985, but enjoyed cattle, so still had a small herd of cows and calves until just a few days before he passed away. Joe and Arlene adopted two children; a son, Dale, in 1947 and a daughter, Beverly, in 1953.

Brother Joe was installed into the ministry in the Dunkard Brethren Church at Dallas Center in September, 1947 and was ordained into the Eldership in April, 1969. He became the presiding elder of the Dallas Center Congregation in 1970 and served in that capacity for twenty-three years until his death. Brother Joe was instrumental in helping to establish the Dallas Center Christian School, and has served as its administrator for its entire existence. He also served for many years on the General Mission Board.

He was preceded in death by his parents; three sisters, Mary Adcock, Ollie Riggs and Ruby Mitchel and two brothers, Muncie and William Flora. He is survived by his wife, Arlene of Adel; his son, Dale Flora of Denver, Colorado; his daughter, Beverly Forker of Westminster, Colorado; four grandchildren, Anthony and Jennifer Flora and Benjamin and David Forker; a brother Ernest Flora of Englewood, Colorado; five sisters, Florence Reed of Manitou Springs, Colorado, Katie Smith of Pueblo, Colorado, Anna Umland, Beulah Reed and Esther Keller of Dallas Center, Iowa.

He will be sorely missed by his family, his Church, the School, his neighbors, and all the friends he has made over the years.

Memorial Services were held at the Dunkard Brethren Church at Dallas Center, Iowa on November 8, 1993 at 10:30 A.M. Officiating ministers were Brother Fred Pifer, Brother Jim Meyers and Brother Dale Jamison; with interment in the Brethren Cemetery.

The family wishes to express their heartfelt thanks to all who remembered them with flowers, calls, cards, letters, memorials, and prayers during this time of their loss. God bless you all.

JAMES R. HAMMON

James R. Hammon, the son of Bud and Clara (Swihart) Hammon, was born October 4, 1959, in Elkhart, Indiana and departed this life October 28, 1993 in Bristol, Indiana at the age of 34 years and 24 days.

He is survived by his parents, two sisters, Mrs. Don (Rhonda) Lavernier of Elkhart, Indiana and Mrs. John (Cathy) Cooper of Raleigh, North Carolina and Grandparents, Bernice Burke of Elkhart, Indiana and Roy and Mary Swihart of Goshen, Indiana, with whom he had recently been living and helping in their care; also, a host of relatives and friends.

Jim was a 1978 graduate of the Elkhart High School and a 1982 graduate of the University of Evansville, where he was a member of the Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity. He had most recently been employed as a machine operator with the Pierce Plastics Corporation. He had been a very regular attendant at the Goshen Dunkard Brethren Church.

Services were conducted from the Hartzler-Gutermuth Funeral Home, Elkhart, Indiana at 10:00 A.M., November 1, 1993, by Elder Harley Flory assisted by Brother Terry Gunderman. Burial was in the West Goshen Cemetery, Goshen, Indiana.

MARY SWIHART

Sister Mary N. Swihart was born July 30, 1905, to William and Elma (Bohner) Long in Hillsdale County, Michigan. She attended the country grade school and graduated from Pioneer High School, Pioneer, Ohio in 1923, then attended the International Business College in, Fort Wayne, Indiana.

On June 2, 1925, she was united in marriage to Roy J. Swihart, in Goshen, Indiana. This home was blessed with seven children. Her survivors include her devoted husband of more than 68 years, three daughters, Mary Alice (Mrs. Earchle) Beecham of Goshen, Indiana, Elsie(Mrs. Tom) Kauffman of Middlebury, Indiana and Clara (Mrs. Bud) Hammon of Elkhart, Indiana; three sons, Norman and William of Goshen, Indiana and Roger of Quinter, Kansas, fifteen grandchildren, twenty one great-grandchildren and a great-great grandchild; a sister, Elsie Cripe of Goshen, Indiana. A son, Robert W. preceded his mother in death on January 17, 1979; also three grandchildren, Jerry Beecham, Sheryl Kauffman and James Hammon, and a sister Loma Cook.

Besides her busy homemaking duties as a loving and caring wife and mother, she also found time to be employed through the years outside the home. She had worked for Dr. Anna Kauffman; the Chase Bag Company; Goshen Churn and Ladder; and the following twenty years with Kirts Dry Cleaning, she retired in 1969. In retirement she helped many of her friends and neighbors in housecleaning.

Services were conducted from the Yoder-Culp Funeral Home on November 16, 1993 by Brother Terry Gunderman and Elder Harley Flory. Burial was in the West Goshen Cemetery.

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

"Wonderful, Wonderful, Wonderful
Wonderful Story of Love."

As we end the year 1993, it is with a sense of wonder, that Christ should love SO much He was willing to come to earth.

Yet, He lives and works in our hearts each day, and He is still calling. Jim Burington and Elisabeth Krohenbuhl came to our congregation earlier in the year. Wonderful!

Bro. Phil Gish was our evangelist for a week of revival. The theme of his first sermon, "Servanthood" was carried throughout and explained practicably. Wonderful, again, was the acceptance of salvation and baptism of young people, Luke and Holy Peters, Kristen and Tracie Dutter. Later in the year, Simeon Franklin was baptized - wonderful!

Wonderful, too, is the birth of children into the world in the continuing cycle of life. They bring us back to wonder, after the sadness of elderly members passing on.

In the New Year, what wonderful things does the Lord have in store for you, for me?

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

THANK YOU

To the many members of the many Congregations over the Brotherhood and many friends and relatives who have remembered me causes me to be so deeply and happily moved.

For prayers that have been lifted up to the God of all mercies and blessings, and for the many get well, comforting, encouraging cards.

Some people whom I don't know, have heard of my condition and have been praying in my behalf, I have learned.

What a Blessing it is to have loved ones, who know the value of Prayer to care so deeply.

Please continue Prayer

Love to All
Brother Paul D. Blocher

MANY, MANY THANKS

First of all, we want to Thank our Heavenly Father for sparing our lives and giving us 60 years together; our children for their work and effort put forth in having this celebration; and our many brothers, sisters, and friends who came to make this a Special Day! We appreciate the many cards (over 120) and gifts of Love. The Lord has blessed us with three wonderful children, ten grandchildren, and ten great-grandchildren. We Love them, everyone!

God blessed my family. I was the eighth girl among sixteen children, eleven girls and five boys. My two oldest sisters have gone on before, leaving five sisters in their 80's, five brothers and sisters, including myself, in their 70's, and four brothers and sisters past retirement age.

May God bless everyone for remembering us at this "milestone" in our lives. We realize that it is only God's goodness and mercy that allowed us to reach a 60th Wedding Anniversary.

We love you all and Thank you Again!

I'll Count My Blessings

I lift my heart today in praise To Him who loves me so.

Whose mercy crowneth all my days, And makes my heart o'er-flow.

O have I loved Him as I should For all His blessings free?

Praise God who giveth naught but good, For He is good to me.

I'll count my blessings --count them o'er and o'er---

I'll count my Father's goodness -- I will love Him more and more.

I'll count my blessings bountiful and free --

Yet I can never count the all -- so good is God to me!

In His Love,

Brother Carl and Sister Myrtle Broadwater

A CARD OF THANKS

I have received so many greeting cards and letters of encouragement that, in my physical condition, it is impossible for me to personally answer each one.

I use this means to thank every one who were so thoughtful in remembering me.

It is my prayer that God will richly bless you in every way and in every need throughout the coming year.

Your Brother in Christ

Brother Paul R. Myers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1994

February 6 - Peter and John Heal a Lame Man - Acts 3:1-26.

1. Why did Peter deflect the praise for the healing of the man?
2. How did Peter use the amazement of the people to God's glory?.

February 13 - Peter and John Arrested - Acts 4:1-22.

1. What was the result of Peter's preaching?
2. How did Peter answer the council's demand to stop preaching?

February 20 - Prayer to God - Acts 4:23-30.

1. What was the substance of their prayer?
2. Notice their request in verse 29.

February 27 - Filled With the Spirit - Acts 4:31-37.

1. What took place when they had prayed?
2. List the acts of unity within the Early Church.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR FEBRUARY 1994

February 6 - The Daughter of Jairus - Mark 5: 22-23, 38-43

1. What words of comfort did Jesus give Jairus when word came of his daughter's death?
2. Why did the mourners laugh at Jesus' words?

February 13 - Our Communications - Matt. 5: 33-37, James 3: 1-18

1. Why are we not to swear when taking oaths?
2. How is our speech a reflection of our heart?

February 20 - Our Alms Giving - Deut. 15: 6-8, Matt. 6: 1-4, Matt. 19:21, Luke 11: 37-42.

1. What are alms and how should we give them today?
2. What cautions should we remember concerning our giving?

February 27 - Our Forgiveness - Ps. 103, Matt. 6: 14-15, Acts 5:31, Eph. 1: 6-10, I John 1:9

1. How is our forgiveness secured?
2. List some of the conditions effecting our forgiveness.

BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXII

FEBRUARY 1, 1994

NO. 3

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE FORMER THINGS ARE PASSED AWAY

There is a land mine eye hath seen,
In visions of enraptur'd thought,
So bright that all which spreads between
Is with its radiant glory fraught;

A land upon whose blissful shore
There rests no shadow, falls no stain;
There those who meet shall part no more.
And those long parted meet again.

Its skies are not like earthly skies,
With varying hues of shade and light;
It hath no need of suns to rise,
To dissipate the gloom of night.

There sweeps no desolating wind
Across that calm, serene abode;
The wand'rer there a home may find,
Within the paradise of God.

PERFECT VERSUS PART

"But when that which is perfect is come, then that which is in part shall be done away." I Corinthians 13:10.

When the Queen of Sheba visited King Solomon, she was amazed and overwhelmed at all the evident tokens of God's blessings upon him. His material blessings really impressed her, but she was even more impressed by the profound wisdom of Solomon. He could answer any riddle that she could propound. His provident care of his household and his ability to rule wisely were beyond her understanding. As great as Solomon was and as impressed as the Queen of Sheba was, Jesus said that for all Solomon's greatness and his objects of beauty, they paled in comparison with the lilies of the field. A simple unadorned flower was greater than Solomon at his best.

This simple comparison tells of the difference between what is partial and what is perfect. A part may be wonderful and be used for a good and holy cause. Solomon's early career spoke of a God, who had blessed him very abundantly. Yet Solomon was not perfect. His possessions were only a part of the whole. The lowly flower was greater for it was created by God and fulfilled without dispute the task it was given. It gave color, beauty and gaiety to a small area of the earth. God created man to accomplish His pleasure. Man has often strayed from that purpose. When he has been intent in serving God, man has been able to accomplish many wonderful things, but too often that intensity and devotion have been missing. Too often man has insisted on doing his own rather than God's will. Rather than contribute what he could, man has foolishly chosen his own way. Rather than supply his part of the whole, he has flawed the whole.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

FEBRUARY 1, 1994

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In I Corinthians 12, several talents available to Christians are listed. These gifts from God are useful for the upbuilding of the Church and for the praise and honor of God. These gifts are given to various members so all the functions of the Church will be performed. Sometimes those who have been intrusted with these gifts begin to think that they have been bestowed upon them because of their own great goodness. God has His own reasons for giving the gifts that He does to whom He does.

In I Corinthians 13, some of these gifts are analyzed. They are shown to be important, but when misused they can become hindrances rather than helps. God has given some men a great ability to speak. They can turn phrases that strike the right sound not only in the ear but in the heart and soul. Some can speak so persuasively that others will be drawn to God. But Paul warns that if this talent is not used in subjection to love, it will become but a racket and a discordant noise. Speaking done without God's direction or for the welfare of others, will be hollow, no matter how entertaining it may be.

God intends for his children to read, study and understand His Word. Some have a talent for Bible study. They are able to penetrate the text to a level far beyond the average Christian's level. They have a talent for sharing this understanding through the written and spoken word. But scholarship done only for the sake of scholarship and notoriety will not honor God or greatly help men. Love must not be excluded from knowledge.

God has given man a good example through the many undeserved, good works He has done for them. Men should follow that example and show similar kindness to those with whom they live. Some have a particular talent for ministering to the temporal needs of others. They are able to say the right words and do the deeds that will meet the need. But good works can become an end in themselves. If those deeds are done only as a human contribution to the world's progress, they will fail to follow the example God has given. Love must be the motivating factor behind these good deeds. God gave His only begotten Son because of His extreme love for mankind.

Speaking, knowledge and good deeds are the earthly part of our Christian experience. Since the fall of Adam and Eve, imperfection has been abroad in this world. The perfect is to be found only in Heaven. We are preparing ourselves in this life and world for that perfect abode. We can only do our best to attain perfection in this imperfect world with our imperfect talents and intentions. We could always do better if we would follow the direction of the Holy Spirit. We have the hope of being in that perfect place, where there will be

no mistakes made. Here we can only know in part, but Over There we shall know the perfect life.

Are you practicing for that perfect life through your choices and lifestyle in this world? Are you longing for that perfect, eternal Home?

MCC

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 1, 1934

CONDITIONS OF MANKIND

Charles H. Ness

Mankind today to a large extent are lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God, yea even many of the Christian professors are right in line or harmony with the worldly craze existing which is wickedness in the sight of God and it is an abomination to God. A very large per cent of Christian profession is a form of Godliness and they deny the power thereof which is the result of lacking genuine gospel teaching and exercising the practical application.

We wish to remind the readers of this article in a few instances the condition of mankind and the result and to compare with the conditions of mankind of today and in what condition Christ shall find mankind at His second coming and the result as we gather from God's word.

We shall first refer you to Genesis 6. When men began to multiply on the face of the earth and the Lord said, "My Spirit shall not always strive with man," and God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually. But Noah found grace in the eyes of the Lord, with wife, his three sons and their wives, and God said unto Noah, I will destroy them with the earth.

God said to Noah, "Make thee an ark," and Noah did according to all the Lord commanded, and the eight souls of mankind with two of every living thing were gathered into the ark. The rains came and all the fountains of the great deep were broken up and all the earth under heaven was covered with water and the ark went upon the face of the water, and all in whose nostrils was the breath of life of all that was in the dry land died.

Only Noah and those that were with him in the ark remained alive and were saved from the destruction of mankind in that instance of God's wrath, because of the wicked condition of mankind.

Likewise in the days of Lot, his wife and daughters, because of the wicked condition existing in Sodom the same day that Lot and his family went out God caused it to rain fire and brimstone from heaven and destroyed them all as a result of wickedness.

In the 24th chapter of Matthew Jesus spake of the course of this age which concerns us and prompts us to take heed to the warning which Jesus Himself throws out and says, "Take heed that no man deceive you for many shall come in My name, saying I am Christ and shall deceive many," and Jesus mentioned so many things which must come to pass which shall be the beginning of sorrows, and what the real Christian must face for His name's sake, and because of this many shall be offended and shall betray one another and shall hate one another and many false prophets shall arise and shall deceive many, and because iniquity shall abound the love of many shall wax cold, which is to a large extent the condition of Christian professions today.

But Jesus says, he that shall endure to the end shall be saved. In this same discourse Jesus speaks of the great tribulation, when ye therefore shall see the abomination of desolation, stand in the holy place, which means the removal of the real genuine worship of Jehovah and the setting up of something else instead of the real true worship of Jehovah and is not recognized by God as worship and service to His honor and to His glory, this condition of Christian profession is rapidly going into fulfillment already, hence great tribulation such as was not since the beginning of the world to this time, no, nor ever shall be is at the door, and except those days be shortened, and by the parable of the fig tree we are made to believe that the conditions of mankind to a great extent, is the leaves of the fig tree fully developed and we can know that the return of the Lord is near, even at the door.

Just notice what is written in Col. 3:5 that shall cause the wrath of God to come upon the children of disobedience or wicked mankind, "And then shall that wickedness be revealed, whom the Lord shall consume with the spirit of His mouth, and shall destroy with the brightness of His coming, because they received not the love of the truth, that they might be saved. And for this cause God shall send them strong delusion, that they should believe a lie, that they all might be damned who believed not the truth but had pleasure in unrighteousness." (II Thess. 2:8-12.)

Again in Matt. 24 Jesus says as the days of woe were so shall also the coming of the Son of Man be. Jesus says, "Watch therefore for ye know not what hour your Lord doth come." Jesus says, "Therefore be ye ready when the Son of Man shall come."

May God help each reader of this article arouse more consideration, meditation and investigation of God's word, what is required to escape the destruction that is awaiting mankind if they continue in wickedness, and to benefit by it and be in a saved relation when He comes, is my prayer.

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That it be the policy of the Bible Monitor to exclude controversial material and material opposing, questioning or reflecting on the decisions or positions of the Church as determined by the General Conference or derogatory thereto. Also all other material not of proper standard or spiritual value for a church paper.

That supervision over the matter to be published in the Bible Monitor be exercised by the Publication Board.

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We are submitting several suggestions as a help to contributors in preparing material for the Bible Monitor. These suggestions will also make the work easier for both the editor and the writer.

1. Become familiar with the Editorial Policy and do not use subjects or statements which conflict with this plan of the Bible Monitor.

2. Place your name and address at the close of the article. We deem it more appropriate to sign as Brother or Sister.

3. Do not make sentences too long. A number of short sentences are better than a long involved sentence, which is difficult to punctuate, and in which the real meaning of the writer's thoughts may be lost.

4. It will be appreciated if you gather a particular thought or thoughts and their proving Scripture quotations, into paragraphs and set these apart from the rest of the article, by setting in the first line of each paragraph about the space of three letters.

5. Do not crowd your words or punctuation marks close together. Do not use slang or abbreviated words as "thot" for "thought", "2" for "two", "&" for "and", etc.

6. Write or type on one side of the paper only. Double spacing of lines is much preferred. Do not make the lines the full width of the sheet, leave at least a one inch margin on each side of the sheet.

7. Use direct quotations for the Scripture references, please copy wording and punctuation just as it appears in the King James Version of the Bible. Given thus: book, chapter and verse, "Jesus wept." John 11:35.

8. Frequent mistakes we find: "beieve" for "believe"; "recieve" for "receive"; "ore" for "or"; "&" for "and".

9. In submitting selected material, give the name of the author and the publication in which it appeared, if known, and add "selected by" and your name.

10. To be certain that an item is in a certain issue, your Editor should have this item at least thirty days prior to the date of that issue.

11. The Publication Board has decided that News Items should contain material of general interest to the Brotherhood. Therefore items of only local interest should not be included in News Items, such as local Sunday School officers, District Meeting delegates, minor local church property improvements and items "In Memoriam".

12. Read these, then write.

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 Last Sun. April - Bethel, PA
 First Sat. May - Pleasant Home, CA
 First Sun. May - Waynesboro, PA
 Third Sat. May - Dayton, VA
 Third Sat. May - West Fulton, OH
 Third Sun. May - Lititz, PA
 Fourth Sun. May - Shrewsbury, PA
 Sat. before First Sun. Aug. - Broadwater Chapel, MD

Sat. before Fourth Sun. Aug. - Swallow Falls, MD
 First Sun. Oct. - Walnut Grove, MD
 Third Sat. Oct. - Dayton, VA
 Fourth Sat. Oct. - Englewood, OH
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GOSSIP, BOTH VERBAL AND BY MAIL

A. Elders, other officials and all others are admonished that being busybodies in other men's matters, is contrary to the Scripture and it should not be indulged in, as it causes complaint and interference with the spiritual life and work of those concerned. This applies especially where there may be trouble in the church, both to local members and those elsewhere, talking and writing about such matters.

B. When advice is sought of an official in any church matter he (the official) should be exceedingly careful in giving advice, so as not to interfere in any way with proper care of difficulties, by officials whose business they are. Elders and all others should, in seeking advice, begin at home when at all possible and be careful to proceed regularly and in brotherly love.

C. In correspondence, care should be exercised not to make statements that may be construed as derogatory to any member. If such things are done, full responsibility must be understood as being assumed by the writer.

D. Caucusing, that is, the talking over and planning by groups, what to do or how to move in any particular matter is unprofitable, causative of distress and trouble and should not be indulged in by officials or anyone else.

E. Talking or circulating of what was done in council, either to members who were not present or to outsiders, is irregular and un-Christian and should not be indulged in.

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LOCATION OF CHURCH HOUSES

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

Located on Route 419, five miles east of Bethel, which is one mile south of Interstate 78, exit 6. The church and the school are located together.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MD

From Cumberland, Maryland, travel west on National Freeway #48, 20 miles to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn left or south under the freeway three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn left on Westernport Road. Go 3.8 miles, turn right on Savage Road. Go 3.9 miles to church on left.

From Morgantown, WV area travel east on National Freeway #48 to Lower New Germany Road Exit. Turn right, go three-tenths mile, turn right on Lower New Germany Road and follow above directions.

Traveling east or west on U.S. Route #50 take U.S. Rt. #220 north, take Maryland Route #135 at McCole (just north of Keyser, WV) seven miles to Bloomington, MD. Turn right on Savage River Road, go 12.5 miles to church on right.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

Dallas Center is located on Rt. 44, twenty four miles northwest of Des Moines. Turn north off Rt. 44 onto Quinlan Avenue, at west edge of Dallas Center. The church is located at 2323 Quinlan Avenue, 3/4 mile north on the west side of the road.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

Turn west from Interstate 81 at Harrisonburg Exit #63. Go to fourth stop light, Rt. 42, turn left to Dayton, (3 miles) right on Rt. 257, two blocks.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

Twelve miles north of Dayton, Rt. 440 and Rt. 48 cross at the center of Englewood. Church house is located on the right of Rt. 48, one block north of this junction.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

Located on Green Road, one block north of County #130. Take U.S. 33 or Indiana #15 to Goshen, turn west at police booth. Four blocks beyond bridge, turn right on North Indiana Ave., go one block, turn left on West Clinton St. Go one mile to Green Rd. turn right and go one block. The church is located on the east side of the road.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Grandview Church is located south of Grandview. Take the west access road of 71 Highway 1.5 miles south to 139th St., turn west, go to the second street and turn south one block.

HART MICHIGAN

From Muskegon go north on Rt. 31 to Hart Exit. Go left from freeway about 1.5 miles to tee in road, turn right. Go approximately one half mile to church on left side of road.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Coming from the south on Route 501, turn right on Newport Road, which is about a mile north of Lititz. Coming from the north turn left on Newport Road. Go to second crossroads, turn right. The white church is on the right.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Located between Routes 15 and 11. The town is bisected by Rt. 114 into east and west and by Rt. 641 into north and south. The church is located on West Keller St., (corner of Keller and Washington) St., four blocks west of Market St., or Rt. 114. Leaving the Pennsylvania Turnpike at the Carlisle interchange, Rt. 11 will lead east to Rt. 114. Leaving the Turnpike at Gettysburg interchange, Rt. 16 will lead west to Rt. 114.

Brightbill's House - located on U.S. Route 322, 2.5 miles east of Campbelltown, Pennsylvania in Lebanon County. The meeting house is a grey limestone building.

MCCLAVE, COLORADO

The Cloverleaf church is located one mile north of U.S. Highway #50, four miles west of McClave junction, or two miles east of Hasty, Colorado on U.S. #50, then one mile north.

MOUNTAINDALE, MARYLAND

Seven miles north of Frederick, in the little town of Mountaintdale, Maryland, from the east go through town to west on road from Lewistown to Yellow Springs, two miles from Lewistown and three miles from Yellow Springs. If traveling U.S. 15, this road crosses 15, a half mile west of Lewistown and six miles south of Thurmont.

NEWBERG, OREGON

Highway 99W goes through Newberg in east-west direction. Those entering from the east on First Street, go to third stoplight, turn right on N. Main. Go four blocks to the church at corner of N. Main and Franklin Streets. Entering from the west, turn left at first stoplight unto N. Main and go four blocks to the corner of Main and Franklin Streets.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

Located near Collins, Mississippi. From Collins, go east on US 84 three quarters of a mile to Salem School Road. Turn left and go five and one fourth miles

to intersection, where there is a directional sign to the Church. Turn left and proceed one mile to the next directional sign. Turn right and go one half mile to the church house.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

The Pleasant Home Church is located at 3960 Sharon Ave., Modesto, California. The church's telephone number is 209-524-8634.

Directions: from the south on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit to the right and stay on Briggsmore Ave. to Claus Road (approximately six miles), turn left on Claus, one fourth mile to Sharon Avenue, left on Sharon. The church is on the left. Coming from the north on Highway 99 take the Briggsmore Exit, turn left and stay on Briggsmore and follow above directions.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

Located in Williams County, four miles west of West Unity, forty rods north of Rt. 20 Alternate. Two miles east of junction of Ohio Rt. 15 and U.S. Route 20 Alternate.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

Route 18 passes east and west through Converse. In Converse, turn south at stoplight and go three miles. Turn right on blacktop road and go five miles to Plevna. Or go west of Converse on Rt. 18 for five miles, turn left and go three miles south. The church is on west side of street near the square of Plevna.

QUINTER, KANSAS

Located at the corner of Eighth Street and Main Street.

RIDGE, WEST VIRGINIA

Coming from the west to Ridgeville on U.S. 50, turn right on Knobley Road. Follow this road to the Antioch Church of God, where you will turn left unto an unpaved road. Follow this road to where the road forks, keep the right hand road to the Ridge Church House.

Coming from the east on U.S. 50, turn left at Ridgeville and follow the same directions. Coming through Cumberland, Maryland follow Route 220 south through Keyser, West Virginia to U.S. 50. Turn east on U.S. 50 and go to Ridgeville and follow the above directions.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

Fourteen miles south of York on Rt. 111, at the north end of the town of Shrewsbury.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

Traveling U.S. Rt. 50, turn north at red house, half way between Clarksburg and Winchester, follow Rt. 219 to Oakland, there turn left on County Road 20. The church is on Road 20 about nine miles north of Oakland. Traveling U.S. Rt. 40, turn south unto Rt. 219, at Keyser Ridge, follow Rt. 219 about four miles past Deep Great Lake, turn right on County Road 20 at a store. The church is 1.5 miles.

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

About midway between Frederick, MD and Hanover, PA. One fourth mile east on Rt. 194, at an intersection three miles north of Taneytown, MD.

CLEARVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA -
Ward's Church is located in South-Central Pennsylvania about halfway between Everett on Rt. 30 and Piney Grove on Rt. 40, about six miles south of Clearville. From Everett take Rt. 26 to Clearville. At Clearville go straight south, leaving Rt. 26, which turns right. Go 1.5 miles, turn right at the fork. Ward's Church is five miles on left side of road. Services are held second, fourth and fifth Sundays, at 10:00 A.M.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

Church is located in west side of town, on corner of Ridge and Third Streets. Turn south of Route 16 on Fairview Ave., go two blocks and turn left on Third Street, church house is one block.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

Near Wauseon, OH, located on U.S. Rt. 20 Alternate, 3.5 miles west of the junction of Ohio Rt. 108 and U.S. 20 Alternate.

WINTERHAVEN, CALIFORNIA

Located in Cherry Valley. Go north of Beaumont on Beaumont Ave., turn right on Brookside (marked with Highland Springs sign) go to Jonathan, turn left, go to Lincoln, turn right and go to church which is on left side of road.

MISSIONS

TORREON NAVAJO MISSION, NEW MEXICO - Located 23 miles southwest of Cuba, New Mexico. In Cuba, turn on State Highway 197. Follow Rt. 197 for 19 miles to a paved road going to the left. A Mission sign marks this junction. Present personnel includes: David and Mildred Skiles; Paul and Sarah Skiles; Mary Alice Skiles; Steve and Susan Beachler; Loren Carpenter; Jeff Birt; and Dwight Clapper. Visitors would be wise to notify the Mission in advance. Address: HCR 79, Box 8, Cuba, NM 87013; telephone: 505-731-2292. Please contact for further information.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXII

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NO. 4

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHEN YOU'RE WEARY

When you're weary, oh, so weary,
And you feel so woebegone,
Then wait, oh, wait upon the Lord;
His strong hand will lead you on.
You shall run and not be weary;
You shall walk and not faint,
For those who will follow Jesus
Will find they have no complaint.

He shall lead you as a shepherd
In the path that He has trod.
He promises to renew strength
When you've felt the chast'ning rod.
So always, always trust the Lord;
In confidence give Him praise.
Trust Him to know what's best for you;
Let Him guide you all your days.

- Irene Stout

A VAIN WISH

We wish for many things. Children wish and hope for the playthings and pretties that appeal to youngsters. As children we could hardly wait for Christmas or our birthdays to come, so we could have some hoped-for toy or trinket. As we grew older, we became, hopefully, less self-centered and less grasping of such things. Still adults wish for many things, which are often higher priced than the toys of youth.

Although some never seem to grow up, mature people do shift their desires away from the material and the physical. They look for the emotional and spiritual delights of life. There is a desire for love, peace, and the wellbeing of others. They begin to think of others, rather than thinking constantly of their own desires.

Some wishes are fulfilled. Children do often receive the gifts they have been eagerly awaiting. They may not appreciate the sacrifice or price that was paid to secure that toy they wanted so badly. Adults receive their desires, often after years of hard work and sacrifice. Often the item itself becomes less important than the struggle to acquire it. People find the finer things of life. Marriages are made that last through a lifetime of love, although all the events of those years were not happy. Peace is found within and without. Especially if peace is made with God, there is so much else that can go wrong with life, but all will be well in the end. People can live lives that are honorable and reputable and find happiness throughout their lives. As people trust in God and live a life pleasing to Him, they have a desire to spend eternity in Heaven that they might praise and serve Him always. This hope can be fulfilled as surely as the wishes for material and physical blessings.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

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Although all these favors and hopes may be fulfilled, there is one wish that cannot be granted. No matter what our intentions, we can never change the past. We can look back to past times wishing that some unkind word, some rash deed or some ungodly course of living could be erased. Not only is it etched within our memories but it is remembered by others. What is done is done. It cannot be changed or erased, no matter what kind of spot it leaves upon our lives. Even if this one word or deed were the only black mark on our whole life's history, it will still be there. This points out that man is never perfect, no matter how good he may be.

Man has been endowed with a memory. He recalls the past, even if he tries to banish it from his own knowledge and tries to keep it hidden from the knowledge of others. It still is there, for if no other knows, God does. Although memory may bring to our minds times and events that were pleasant and uplifting, it many times brings to mind those incidents that were of an opposite nature. God uses memory for a good end in our lives although all our memories are not pleasant. If we did not remember the past course of our lives we would continue on in a self-deluded way assuming that our lives were approved by God. God in His mercy has given us memory so we can recall our sins.

Recalling our sins is not pleasant. It is hard on the human ego to admit fault and a life less than perfect. But if we did not remember those past iniquities, we would not repent of them. Then we would die in our sins and be devoid of all hope of an eternity better than our present life.

Repentance is a very necessary, though uncomfortable, part of God's plan of salvation. Without a recognition of sin in the life, there is no perceived need for a different relationship with God. As long as a person does not realize there is anything to confess or a way to mend, he will continue in his ways and be led by the enemy of his soul downward to Hell. Repentance is not only a sorrow for sins committed in the past, but a determination to live a more holy life in the future through the power granted by the Holy Spirit of God. Repentance will bring a change into the life of the one who confesses his sins. A memory of the past may cause much sorrow, but if it does not produce a change, it is for naught. Tears and sighings are not repentance.

You cannot change your past. You can bemoan it and let it hinder you or you can overcome it and improve upon it. You can repent of your past or you can let it drag you down. It is a vain wish to change your past. What are YOU going to do with YOUR past?

WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO BE A DUNKARD?

One of the most intriguing questions put to me was, "What does it mean to be a Dunkard?" I've thought about this for quite some time – in fact, for more than a year. And I guess I'll be thinking about it for quite some time in the future.

What does it mean to be a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church? Because of this affiliation, how is my life different than the lives of my neighbors, who are not Dunkards?

The disturbing aspect of this question is that there really isn't that much that is different as one would compare the lifestyles of our neighbors and ourselves. My neighbors and I all get up and go to work in the morning. We drive cars to work. The houses on the street where we live all look about the same. Ours doesn't have a television antenna on the roof, but then neither do many of our neighbors since cable television became available. We have a garden: some of our neighbors do, and some don't. Perhaps more of a difference is that most of my neighbor's wives also go to work, and my wife has not worked outside the home since we have children.

If someone were to drive down our street, they wouldn't notice anything about our house that would make it stand out from all the other houses just because we're members of the Dunkard Brethren Church.

We do dress differently when we go to church or other "dress-up" functions. My wife wears a head-veiling (see I Corinthians 11) all the time. She also wears dresses, while many of our neighbors wear pants and shorts. Adam and I wear long pants and keep our shirts on no matter how hot it is.

Of the half dozen houses nearest us, all but one has changed owners in the past eleven years. One of the changes in ownership was due to death, but most of the other houses were sold due to the marriages breaking up – and the ensuing divorces. When a divorce occurs, the couple breaks up, and then they have to "settle up." So they must sell the house in order to pay off the mortgage (usually large), and they each come away with a few thousand dollars (if they're lucky) with which to begin a new life. So a belief in the performance of marriage does separate us from many of our neighbors. Divorce simply is not an option for us.

But in order to see any more differences between the lifestyles of our neighbors and that of our own, we'll have to go inside the house – and, in fact, inside our lives.

Our outlook on life is different.

Our entire life revolves around our belief in God. And because we have accepted His offer of salvation, we live transformed lives –

lives that are changed by the power of the Gospel of Jesus Christ. This transformation affects the way we get along with each other, as well as the things we choose to do and the places we choose to go. We realize that we are accountable to God.

Our motivation is different.

We do the things we do out of a heart overflowing with love and gratitude for what God has done for us. We are liberated from the never-ending treadmill of attempting to please self. Rather, we can find fulfillment through obedience to God by serving others.

Our "up-look" is different.

Rather than concentrating on amassing a great bunch of toys to enjoy while living here on this globe, we live with a view that Christ will one day come for us, and receive us to Himself. "And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also." (John 14:3) Therefore, rather than looking to gratify self, we are looking to please our Master, the Lord Jesus Christ.

And so, while there may be all that much on the outside of our homes which mark us as being members of the Dunkard Brethren Church, there certainly should be some things about our lives that make it easy for others to quickly identify us as being different. The New Testament is filled with instructions about the change in life-style and attitudes between the "old man" and the "new man" – the new man which put on the Lord Jesus Christ (see Romans 13:14).

So let us be mindful to continue walking in the paths of the Gospel – in order that there will be a difference in our lives! After all, Christ does make the difference!

Brother Robert S. Lehigh

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

God's plans...

Part 1

God has always had a plan for His creation. Man has always seemed to try to go contrary to that plan with the help of Satan. We understand the New Testament plan because God has spelled it out thoroughly in His Word for us. But, we also need to understand God's plan for the Jews. This is historically presented in the Old Testament.

I know people who think that God does not have a plan for a future for the Jewish people. This could not be farther from the truth. Some of these people are simply anti-Semitic and others are just not well informed. In fact, for the Christian, the fact that God has a

plan for the Jews should pose no problem. All of God's Word and His creation give evidence that He is the divine architect. It is not inconsistent with His Word that His plan for this ancient people is revealed. Ironically, it is not until the end of the books of the New Testament that the mystery of the history of the Jews is solved. They have been the object of persecution and hatred for ages past and remain persecuted. Is this just accidental or is it God's plan?

Let me first point out that this cannot be understood without knowing of the sovereignty of God. Isaiah 46 gives us both the past and future of their history. It shows that there is no limit to God's power to accomplish His purpose.

The first part of Genesis gives us a summary of the creation record, the fall of Adam, and the condemnation and dispersion of the human race. The last part of that book teaches us about the calling of a man... Abraham... and God promising and covenanting with him to bless the entire world, through his seed. The rest of the Bible shows the fulfillment of that one plan. Its development has been almost unbelievable.

The first great truth that was revealed to Israel is that of the UNITY OF GOD... THAT GOD IS ONE. No nation, no human intellect, no human philosophy or no history had ever revealed this important fact. Without understanding this basic fact, Israel would have been idolatrous and would have worshipped many gods as did the idolatrous world around them. God said, "Ye are my witnesses, saith the Lord, and my servant whom I have chosen, that ye may know and believe me, and understand that I am he; before me there was no God formed, neither shall there be after me." (Isaiah 43:10) People who believe that there might be other gods and other worlds ruled by them do not understand this important principle of monotheism. Our GOD is the ONLY God. He is all in all, everlasting to everlasting.

There had to be a revelation of God to mankind if He was going to be known. This, of course, was partly accomplished by nature. He is seen in creation itself. But this revelation, of course, is limited. It does not give us answers to such issues as the forgiveness of sin, a hope for life after physical death or the knowledge of the nature of a living God. These truths come only from God's Word... the Bible. The prophets of old were moved by the Spirit of God to reveal what God had instilled in their minds, emotions, experiences and faith. They wrote the Scriptures, received them as God's own words, preserved them and defended them. Today, Christians still have the responsibility to receive them, preserve them and defend them... as well as TRANSMIT them. But, through Israel, God gave us this wonderful Word whose message and wisdom have inspired and blessed men for thousands of years.

God called Israel to be a set apart people. He made the promise to Abraham that his seed would be blessed to all nations. It is thrilling to see how God used the Jewish people to accomplish His plan. Look at the birth of Isaac to Abraham and Sarah in their old age; the guarding of Sarah from the harem of Abimelech; the deliverance from the bondage of Egypt; the protection from the evil Haman and other pagan nations surrounding Israel. God cared for His people during their long captivity and took them back to their own land. The final and ultimate climax of all these miracles is the miracle of the incarnation. God did and DOES have a divine plan.

God used Israel many ways in the preparation of the Gospel. How? He gave Israel the Law which was a schoolmaster leading unto Christ. Even the Law was a shadow of good things to come. We see it as shallow in comparison to the new Law of Christ... even, at times, not effective. But God was in control. The sternness of its moral code revealed the awfulness of sin and the ultimate need for God's forgiveness.

God revealed the futility of self-righteousness and righteousness by the Law through the Jewish people. In doing that... He taught us. The message is now clear. We can now understand justification and its relationship to faith.

God revealed the need of a priesthood through the Jews. This prepared the way for the priesthood of Christ. Is it an accident that Melchizedek appears on the scene as high priest of El Elyon, the Most High God... to intercede for Abraham? Psalm 110 teaches us that the Son of David would be a priest "forever after the order of Melchizedek." How would we understand this concept of a High Priest apart from the Levitical Law?

God revealed, through the Jews, His mercy and judgment. God always dealt righteously with the Jews and He continues to bless those who trust and obey Him. He has... and will... judge those who disbelieve and disobey Him.

God's plan in the Old Testament is an awesome study. Next issue we will look at the completion of this plan in the New Testament.

Brother Len Wertz

GOD'S LOVE - COMPLETE, PURE AND HOLY

Revelation 3:19, "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten: be zealous therefore, and repent." (Jesus Christ)

No matter how often we write or speak on the subject of God's love we cannot begin to exhaust the height, width or depth of it. All earthly comparisons pale in their effort to describe this love of all loves. Yet we know that the New Testament writers used such metaphors in their effort to describe God's love. Jesus Christ, God

the Son, LOVE in the flesh, gave us the greatest example and teachings on love that we have.

We have our Lord and Savior speaking to the church in Sardis in our opening verse. He says first of all "As many as I love." It seems clear from the context of this chapter that He is speaking of His special love He has for the Church. Yet we know that Scripture clearly teaches that "... God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." God's love is complete. It covers every individual who ever breathed the breath of life. It is also complete in the sense that God's love is unconditional. We can learn a very important lesson from this. The divorce courts would be empty if husband and wife had unconditional love for one another. Families would be stronger units if we had unconditional love for one another. There would be no such thing as a church split if we had unconditional love for one another.

However, unconditional love is not a weak-kneed, wishy-washy type of love. Jesus Christ said, (Those I love) "I rebuke and chasten." Unconditional love, in our opinion, does not overlook an adulterous affair by a husband or wife. Unconditional love does not overlook the fact that children are disobedient to parents or the teachings of the Holy Scriptures. Children who are still in the home must have loving discipline. The modern thinking that you should never spank a child is not of God. Yet there does come an age, we believe, that spanking should cease and other methods of discipline should be used. When children are at that age when they are on their own, we, of course, are no longer responsible for their actions. Yet, even then, unconditional love does not give approval to unscriptural actions on their part. We do not believe we must "preach to them" every time they are in our presence. But if the opportunity presents itself we should be willing to give advice as led by the Holy Spirit. Unconditional love does not mean that we throw away all rules and regulations in a church setting. God's love is not only complete but it is pure. God loves the sinner but He does not love their sin. The teaching of unconditional eternal security is next to blasphemy in our humble opinion. The teaching that an individual can be truly born again and continue in the same type of lifestyle is completely contrary to the teachings of Holy Scripture.

This brings us to our third point. Jesus Christ says, "Be zealous therefore." God's love is not only complete and pure, it is also holy. In Exodus 20:5 we find, "..., for I the LORD thy God am a jealous God, ..." If He was jealous concerning the nation Israel surely He is jealous concerning the Church. May we take heed as our Lord says unto us, "He that hath an ear, let him hear what the Spirit saith unto the churches." We are to have no other gods before us. We are not the final judge. God is! But we cannot see an individual being

zealous for God and at the same time taking part in the worship of professional sports, the Hollywood theatre, television, worldly music or other professions that are not giving glory to God but stealing His glory from Him. We are not to make unto us any graven images. For us this is symbolic of false religion. For we are also told that we are not to bow down ourselves to them. It is not popular today to take a stand for true Christianity. We have read that some of the leading religious figures today in the "Bible believing" segment of the Church has praised the Pope as being a man of God for our day. Any stand against most false teachings are labeled as being judgmental. But can we truly be zealous for God's Word and still compromise with a lie? We believe we should also be zealous in our defense of the King James Version for those who speak and write the English language and as close a replica as possible for those who do not.

Last of all Jesus Christ tells us, "and repent." If you have spurned the love of God, REPENT and allow Jesus Christ to be your Lord and Savior. He is also calling those who profess to be His special loved one, the Church, to REPENT. "Wherefore come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you." Let us also repent of selfishness, pride, unwillingness to forgive one another, and personal sins. God's love is complete, pure and holy. Let us desire to make this our example and to love HIM more.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

February 15, 1934

CHRIST ALL SUFFICIENT FOR MEN'S NEEDS

B. F. Masterson

"I find in Him no fault at all." (John 18:38).

Man is so constituted, socially, morally and physically, that he needs help, man does not live unto himself. I pity the person who has no neighbors or friends when he stands in need, the cause for such a predicament is that one is not inclined to lend a helping hand when needed, and when willing to help one meets with limitation, inability, weakness, and finds himself inadequate for the task.

This time of depression that we are passing through is the source from which issues the great and perplexing problems, in the family, society, church and state. Heart rending, nerve straining problems, so discouraging, worrying the life out of not only man in the common

walks of life, but men of greater responsibility, such as the chief executive of our nation and his associates who are facing problems that puzzle the most experienced in office. All are soliciting help, appealing to men of experience in such of whom they found high ideals to solve these problems.

But alas, how these ideals often receive a severe and saddening shock and only prove the fallibility of man to fully supply the needs of men.

Listen! There is none who has received such close searching inspection as the man of Galilee, yet after over nineteen hundred years of verdict of the world is that of Pilate, "I find in Him no fault at all." Perfectly good, infallible and able to save to the uttermost.

Many of the church leaders of today will not cry against prevailing sins, for policy sake. He could not be hired into silence upon the wrongs of the world. While He would be using words burning into the hearts of the evils of his day, He was as tender as a mother to those who came to him for help. His heart went out to the hungry multitude, (Matt. 15:30). He reaches out to feed those who are hungering and thirsting after righteousness.

Would the hungry multitude of today turn to God through Christ, He surely would supply their needs for He said, "Seek ye first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added unto you."

Why this chaotic condition in the financial world? Where there is an over production of food and clothing and yet thousands go hungry and in need of the comforts of life. There is confusion in the opinion and ideas of the leaders of our land as to its remedy, something like in the time of Babel. Did God cause this confusion of opinion in the minds of wise men to teach the people a lesson "how to live." It is just like Him.

It is the method He would resort to in times past, when the people would forget God and live too fast. When people had plenty of work and received good wages instead of laying up for a rainy day, it was "spent for that which is not bread and their labor for that which satisfieth not." Places of amusement flourished every where but the Lord was forgotten.

For the restoration of better times take the advice of the prophet, to wit: "Seek ye the Lord while He may be found, call ye upon Him while He is near. Let the wicked forsake his way, and the unrighteous man his thoughts and let him return unto the Lord and he will have mercy upon him: and to our God for He will abundantly pardon." (Isa. 55:6-7).

Jesus is the moral hero of the world. At one instance He is demolishing some great wrong, next He is loving physician all tenderness and sympathy. He only can and will solve perplexing problems. His sermon on the mount places purity of the heart as

one of the chief and necessary things for happiness of home and society. His love is for men, most reformers have a cause which they love and wish to see succeed and would even die for their cause, but Jesus had a passion for men, not to see His cause succeed did He die, but that He might elevate and save men. The characteristic of leaders is when things go against them to lose heart; Elijah sat under a juniper tree so discouraged that he longed for death, because a woman was after his life. John the Baptist after his wonderful career was put in prison and in the darkness of the dungeon he wondered if the One he so wonderfully foretold was really the Christ or not.

Jesus never lost heart, it was He who told the apostles to be of good cheer when facing a task before them fraught with persecution and imprisonment.

It was He who when about to enter upon the trial that He knew would terminate on the cross, did not seek loving sympathy, but gave it in the words, "Let not your heart be troubled, ye believe in God, believe also in me." and so forth. It was in the darkest hour that He had confidence in His saving gospel that it was for the world and that His mission is for all men.

It was the criticisms of His enemies that drew out the expression of His love for man, like the three parables in the fifteenth chapter of Luke. The first one is the lost sheep, going after it until he found it. Human leaders will not go the full length of the "until" which is on the cross. The same with the lost coin, sweeping diligently "till," no letting up to it "till" she found it. The last was the climax of His love for man – receiving the good for nothing wayward runaway boy with open arms.

There are men who palm themselves off for reformers and leaders, attacking institutions and forms of government, causing dissatisfaction among the masses, bringing about strikes which is like throwing a monkey wrench into the machinery of the plans of the leaders in authority. Jesus did not make this mistake, His teaching was to the effect that before a radical change for the better could take place the heart must be changed, and this was His mission and is the mission of the church to bring the person to Christ and He will change his heart. The mission of the church is not to meddle with the affairs of state. Sin cannot be legislated out of existence, but the church can be the means of converting the sinner and her influence will have the desired effect. For this reason Christ paid so little attention to the government and its abuses in His day.

Men are chosen to lead men by those who follow them but the disciples did not chose Him, He chose them. "Ye have not chosen Me, but I have chosen you." (John 15:16). Thus has the leader of all leaders chosen a society of which He is the living and glorified head. I find no fault in Him, do you?

WHAT WILL IT MATTER?

What will it matter by and by,
 Whether my crosses are heavy or light,
 Whether my pathway was clouded or bright,
 When I shall walk with the ransomed in white,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

What will it matter by and by,
 Whether my trials are many or few,
 Whether the world was unfaithful or true,
 When my redeemer in Glory I view,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

What will it matter by and by,
 Whether the waters are bitter or sweet,
 Murmuring gently or sad at my feet,
 When the departed with rapture I greet,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

What will it matter by and by,
 Whether I pass with the morning away,
 Whether at noontide or closing of day,
 When in the valley of Eden I stray,
HOME IN THAT BEAUTIFUL LAND.

- Fanny Crosby
 Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

IT IS GOOD FOR ME THAT I HAVE BEEN AFFLICTED

"It is good for me that I have been afflicted; that I might learn thy statutes." Psalm 119:71.

Here we see what our attitude should be under SANCTIFIED affliction. It is very desirable for us to know, if we are in trouble, whether we are in the number of those whom it is said, "Happy is the man whom the Lord correcteth;" or if we are able to say with David, "It is good for me that I have been afflicted, that I might learn thy statutes." Then when the affliction is sanctified, man is the scholar, and God is the teacher. Though the man may rebel at first, yet under the influence of God he will be brought to the state of mind in which God heard Ephraim bemoaning himself: "thou hast chastised me, and I was chastised, as a bullock unaccustomed to the yoke: turn thou me, and I shall be turned, for thou art the Lord my God. Surely, after that I was turned, I repented, and after that I was instructed, I smote upon my thigh: I was ashamed, yea, even confounded, because I did bear the reproach of my youth." So will it

be with every man when God is thus dealing with him, and sanctifying his afflictions. "He sitteth alone and keepeth silence, because he hath born it upon him; he putteth his mouth in the dust, if so be there may be hope.

We see also how we may improve our afflictions, and how to render them not only harmless, but even BENEFICIAL. This will be when, like David, we are turned toward him, and ask, "Where is God my maker, who giveth songs in the night?" and "Though no affliction for the present is joyous, but grievous: nevertheless afterward it yielded the peaceable fruits of righteousness unto them that are exercised thereby." The ploughman is not angry with the ground, but he drives the plow along to prepare it for the seed. The gardener is not angry with the vine, but he cuts it and prunes it, in order that it "may bring forth more fruit." As constantly as the ox that is in the field of labor, he must have the yoke on. Jeremiah compares affliction to a yoke, and says, "It is good for a man that he bears the yoke in his youth." Let the Lord impose it upon us and it will sit easy and wear well; and we shall not be anxious to put it off till we put off the body. Thus we are comforted concerning the care of our hearts and of our hands. Thus, while we learn the goodness does not exempt us from affliction, it supports us in them, and turns them into blessings. Let us remember that we need every one of them:

"They all are most needful:
Not one is in vain."

While they teach us "what an evil thing, and bitter it is to sin against God," they are often the "fruits to take away sin."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

LABELS AND COMMANDMENTS

(Assistant Editor's Note: When reading the labels on foods, sometimes there is an asterisk, or a zero with an asterisk, in the column indicating that there are zero grams of fat or salt per serving of that food item. But if you look at the bottom of the label to see what the asterisk means, you will find that an asterisk indicates that there is less than one gram of salt or fat per serving. So the zero

doesn't really mean there is none – it just means that there is less than one. This is what prompted Adam's comments, which appear below.)

Someone has thought up a thing that "No Salt" means "less than a gram of salt," and "No Fat" means "less than a gram of fat." What do you think about it?

Take the Ten Commandments, for instance. Is it okay if we kill five people in our life-time? Or should we steal ten things in our life-time?

Wrong!

We should not steal. We should not kill. We should obey the Commandments.

You think about all that!

Adam Lehigh

MARRIAGE

SKILES - PRIEST

Tena Irene Skiles, daughter of David and Mildred Skiles of Cuba, New Mexico, and Duane Lynn Priest, son of George and Joanne Priest of Hagerstown, Maryland, were united in marriage, January 1, 1994, near Chambersburg, Pennsylvania.

The couple is living at 20230 Marsh Haven Lane, Hagerstown, Maryland 21742.

NEWS ITEMS

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, the Pleasant Ridge Congregation will begin a ten-day Revival Meeting, Friday, March 18, 1994. Bro. Mark Cordrey of Modesto, California will be our Evangelist. There will be all day services on Saturday, March 26, with Lovefeast Saturday evening, 7 P.M. The meetings will close Sunday evening, March 27.

We extend a welcome to all who can come and worship with us. May we pray for Bro. Mark as he prepares for these services.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

It's been a harsh, cold, icy winter this year in the East. Many have remarked that we have never seen anything like this. Everyone seems to be looking forward to Spring. It will be wonderful to see the green grass, the beautiful flowers, the warm sunshine and to hear the sound of the frogs and the song of the birds, again. I couldn't help but compare this with our harsh, cold, evil world which is worse than we have ever seen before. Not everyone can be looking forward to a wonderful place of joy, happiness, with no tears or heartaches. Only those who have accepted Christ into their hearts and are living for Him have that promise of that new home. What a joy it puts in our souls to think of moving to that new home with all our loved ones gone before and most of all to be with our loving heavenly Father who cared so much for us.

Bro. Scott Bross from the Bethel Congregation is planning to bring the Word of God starting March 25 through April 3, 1994. Will you come and pray with us for these meetings that there will be more souls won to the Lord?

Bro. Cameron Wells requested to let you know Sis. Mable Wells is now in the Brethren Village Home, 3001 Lititz Pine, Lancaster, PA 17600. She would enjoy receiving cards.

Jennifer King, daughter of Bro. Christ and Sis. Teresa King gave her heart to the Lord at Bro. Randy Shaffer's funeral when an invitation was given for rededication and invitation to accept the Lord. We were made to rejoice when a number of souls stood. God is still calling and we praise Him for it.

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1994

March 6 - Ananias and Saphira; Miracles and Healings - Acts 5:1-16.

1. What was the root sin of Ananias and Saphira?
2. What spiritual gain resulted from God's judgement on their sin?

March 13 - The Empty Prison - Acts 5:17-28.

1. For what "crime" were the Apostles imprisoned?
2. How did God hinder the efforts of the religious leaders?

March 20 - Obedience to God Rather than Man - Acts 5:29-42.

1. How do we determine when obedience to God justifies civil disobedience?
2. Are you ready, willing and "set for the defense of the Gospel?"

March 27 - Seven Deacons Chosen; The Faith of Stephen - Acts 6:1-15.

1. What prompted the Apostles to ask for the call of deacons?
2. What qualities of Stephen irritated his accusers? verse 10.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR MARCH 1994

March 6 - God's Covering - Heb. 9:22, Gen. 3:21, Isa. 30:1, Isa. 61:10.

1. What must we first be covered with to become a child of God?
2. List some of the blessings with which God covers His faithful children.

March 13 - God Respects Sacrifice - Eph. 5:1-2, Gen. 4:1-26, Rom. 12:1-2.

1. What qualifies as a sacrifice to God?
2. What sacrifices are you making to God?

March 20 - God Grieved - I Pet. 3:12, Gen. 6:1-7, Ps. 7:11, Pro. 16:29.

1. What grieves the heart of God?
2. What element in the life of a child of God will cause us to flee that which will grieve Him?

March 27 - God Provides Refuge - Isa. 26:4, Gen. 6:8-8:19.

1. To whom does God promise to provide His protection?
2. List some ways that God supplies protection to His own.

Paul Stump
10340 N. Diamond Mill
Union, OH 45332

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 5

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

O I WANT TO SEE HIM

As I journey thru the land singing as I go,
Pointing souls to Calvary, to the crimson flow;
Many arrows pierce my soul from without, within,
But my Lord leads me on, thru Him I must win.

When in service for my Lord dark may be the night,
But I'll cling more close to Him, He will give me light;
Satan's snares may vex my soul, turn my tho'ts aside,
But my Lord goes ahead, leads whate'er betide.

When in valleys low I look 'tward the mountain height,
And behold my Savior there, leading in the fight;
With a tender hand outstretched 'tward the valley low,
Guiding me, I can see, as I onward go.

When before me billows rise from the nighly deep,
Then my Lord directs my bark, He doth safely keep;
And He leads me gently on thru this world below,
He's a real Friend to me, O I love Him so.

PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY

When reading Galatians 6, the reader may be struck by two verses which might seem contradictory. God always has a purpose in the words and thoughts He has dictated to the writers of His Word. Why would He give thoughts that would seem contradictory when they are read? He gives those who read the opportunity to study His Word. What is studied out will be remembered and acted upon longer. Verses 2 and 5 of this chapter are given for such a study. Hopefully, what we learn through this study will help us in our Christian lives.

One of the distinguishing characteristics of Christians is their willingness to share with others and to help others in times of need. Their help is not only material and physical but Spiritual as well. The world is not used to helping others, there each must meet his own troubles and bear his own burden.

The Church, from the example of Jesus bearing man's sin burden, has learned to share the burdens of others. Help may be visible and public, such that given following a natural disaster. Other help may be private financial aid given to those in need due to sickness, accident, death or disaster. Public or private prayer is always an appropriate means of support and help. Time might be invested as a means of helping those who need attention because of sickness or grief. Aid also may be emotional and spiritual. Often an ear to listen and a shoulder to lean on are important ways of bearing another's burdens. Although we do not always understand the burdens that others must bear, we should be available to help the best way we can.

The Christian is willing to give his aid so the burden of another

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will be lightened. His first duty is to fellow believers, but he does not limit his help to those who agree with him religiously. Even those who are of other faiths and cultures, as well as those who live very ungodly lives are deserving of the help that a Christian can give. Jesus did not die just for the godly, but He actually died for the ungodly which includes every person in this world, including you and I.

Help given in a Godly spirit may help lead another to Christ. Help that is given without preconditions and without expecting praise may help even the most hardened sinner to accept Christ, who is indirectly represented by Christians who are willing to go, give and gather. The greatest burden that can be lifted for another is to introduce him to Jesus Christ. To encourage that one to believe in, acknowledge, and follow Jesus Christ will do more to lift their burden than all the physical and material help that could be given.

While presenting Jesus Christ as the ultimate burden-bearer, we can encourage the sinner to accept the plan of salvation, but it remains his personal responsibility to make that choice. Every man must prove his own work, whether it is the first work of believing or the later good works that issue from that faith. Conditions may be made favorable, pleas may be made, encouragement may be given, but he still has to make his own choice. His eternal destiny may be affected by our willingness to share the gospel. We may be such a poor witness that he would be turned from the gospel, but still with all our faults, it remains that he must accept the truth or deny it. We can make it as easy as possible for him to accept but if he chooses not to, it remains his eternal loss.

One can not make the choice for another. Each must make that choice for himself. If a man chooses for himself he can rejoice for himself that he has chosen alright. Every man must establish his own relationship with God. God has done all necessary, including making the needed sacrifice for men's sins, for a person to come to Him and to become an adopted child of His. God desires this relationship and He continues to wait till men will accept His offer. He patiently awaits man's repentance and desire to be united with God's family. Each has a personal responsibility.

These two verses set so close together force us to think and to study a little to realize what lessons God has for us. He wants us to realize our responsibility to lead and encourage others to accept Jesus Christ as their personal Saviour and to unite with God's earthly family. But no amount of encouragement or force can bring salvation to another. Each must make that choice for himself. Having made that choice, it becomes his responsibility to share it with others and to encourage all to live up to the standards established in God's Word.

Have you borne the burden of helping another, whether temporally or Spiritually? Have you borne your own burden?

AARON'S OINTMENT

There is a lesson in Psalms 133 that should be of interest and concern to all of us. It has to do with the precious ointment that was used in the installation of the first high priest, Aaron. We see that it was placed upon his head and no doubt it was a part of his consecration to the office of high priest. We also learn that it ran down upon his beard and to the skirts of the garments.

What were the ingredients of this precious ointment? Was there a secret formula? Most likely the exact formula is not known today but the Bible does mention a number of spices which were used for perfume and some were to be a sweet savor to the Lord.

Let's look at some of the spices found in the Bible that may have been used in the precious ointment and what we may learn from them to make our lives more pleasing and full of lasting goodness to the Lord.

ALOES: A spice used by Nicodemus to anoint the dead body of our Lord. How grateful Nicodemus must have been for that nighttime visit when he received the new birth. Aloes reminds us of gratitude and gladness, Ps 45:8.

CASSIA: This spice speaks of worth, value and riches. It was something that could be sold or exchanged in the market place. Ez. 29:19.

CINNAMON: It was used in anointing oils, to perfume beds and is delightful in recipes for the table. Ex. 30:32. It is the small ingredient that makes a difference. The true believer is to be the small ingredient that makes a difference in the home, at work, in the market place or at school.

MYRRH: It was used in purification rites. Esther 2:12. It was also offered to Christ upon the cross but He refused it. He had no need for it as He had no sin. It also speaks of the joy and ecstasy the seeker has in finding Christ.

FRANKINCENSE: It can remind us to search diligently for the Christ. Matt. 2:8. It also speaks of sweetness as in Lev. 2:2 it was used in the sacrifice to be "a sweet savor unto the Lord."

SPIKENARD: This spice was very rare and costly and was not usually affordable by the poor. It was used to anoint Jesus prior to His death. Mark 14:13. Spikenard was difficult to obtain as it grew in the mountain areas at high elevations. From this we can learn to give God our best just as He gave us Heaven's best in the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ.

As we have looked at possible ingredients for the "precious ointment", we find more than just facts about different spices. More important, we learn the great lesson of just how pleasant it is to God when brethren "dwell together in unity." Also, let us remember, that it

took considerable cost and effort to obtain and process the spices. Likewise, the ingredients required to bring lasting pleasure to our Lord will require much commitment and dedication from the earnest seeker.

None of us stand alone but we walk together before the Lord. If we can apply the great lessons that these spices teach us, we can have the joy of being that sweet smelling savor which our Lord deserves. We then will become as the "...precious ointment upon the head, that ran down upon the beard, even Aaron's beard: that wend down to the skirt of his garments."

In the Love of Christ,
Brother David L. Skiles

MY WORD

Isaiah 55:11, "So shall my word be that goeth forth out of my mouth: it shall not return unto me void, but it shall accomplish that which I please, and it shall prosper in the thing whereto I sent it."

As we are the creatures of God, and He has made us able to reason, it is natural to suppose that He would give to us a revelation of His mind and will concerning us. Without this we cannot walk so as to please Him, or obtain a knowledge of His approbation, upon which all our happiness depends. In the Holy Scriptures, God has made this revelation, which is emphatically designated the Word of God. "My Word," says God. Abundant evidences establish the divine origin of the Scriptures — evidences derived from various proofs, and proofs so convincing that a man must have closed his eyes not to perceive the force of them. "Holy men of old wrote as they were moved by the Holy Ghost." All we have met with in the Scriptures constrain us to say, "This is the finger of God." We have here prophecies, precepts, promises, admonitions, the achievements of the best of men, and the convictions of the wisest of men. We have INTERNAL evidence in the purity and dignity and consistency of its contents. We have EXTERNAL evidences in the numberless miracles openly performed in the presence of enemies, who would gladly have denied them if they could. We have prophecies, many of which have been fulfilled, and others which are being fulfilled before our eyes, and the establishment of His Church not possible without the intervention of the Holy Ghost. How delightful it is in a world of uncertainties and suspicions, of conjectures and errors, to find something to which we may say, "This is truth," and, "This is something upon which we can rely: firm and secure!" Here we have something upon which we can depend, with more assurance than upon the continuance of earth and heaven, for our Saviour says: "Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my word shall not pass away."

Brother Lynn H. Miller

RD 2 Box 561, Newmanstown, PA 17073

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

God's Plans...

Part 2

In our last article, we documented God's use of the Jew during the Old Testament period to lead men into an understanding of His perfect will. The New Testament finishes the incomplete Old Testament part of this plan and God continues to use the Jew.

The early Church was composed of Jewish disciples. This was important in the transition from Judaism to the New Christianity. Men were needed who believed and accepted the Old Testament Scriptures because in them were the evidences that Jesus was the promised Messiah. The early Church needed men whose faith went back to Abraham and who looked for the Anointed One.

It was God's will to use the Jews again to write the New Testament. Isn't that amazing? History was able to be recorded because they knew it from their youth in the study of the Old Law and this played a part in their interpretations. God chose these men to give us His New Testament.

Is that all? No. God took men of faith who were obedient and full of vision...Jews...to take the Gospel to all men. Of course these men were changed by the love of God and it was possible for them to love the Gentiles as well as their own people. God, in His perfect and marvelous way, removed the ancient prejudice and broke down the middle wall of partition between the people. So, we see Peter going to Cornelius and the Apostle Paul going to the Gentile nations of the ancient world.

In the book of Romans, Paul teaches us, Gentile believers, about our standing in grace. We have been grafted in because He has set Israel apart in their judaical blindness. We can't boast because God can well restore Israel again. And, this will happen. We can not be "high minded but should fear." (Rom. 11:20)

Now we live in a world of time. We talk about the past, the present and the future. In reality, the future is coming to us already settled in the perfect plan and purpose of God. Of course, when it reaches us, it is the present and then it recedes into the past. Along with this understanding is the fact that God still has plans for the Jews.

We see many peoples coming and vanishing beyond the horizon of history. This is not true of the Jews. Romans tells us that God has not cast away His people whom He foreknew. (Rom. 11:2) They remain as the evidence of His care and plan for them. Despite their

long history of being persecuted, God has not left Himself without a remnant.

It is obvious that no one can reach out to the Jewish culture better than the Jews themselves. They understand the traditions, the mind-set, the way of life. Pray that God will lift up Jewish Christians to reach these blinded people. Pray for the peace of Jerusalem.

Israel is now an independent State. They have seen remarkable growth. Their homeland is blossoming like a rose. From the old to the new...God's plan is unfolding perfectly. And His future plan is revealed in His Word. It includes the Great Tribulation which is referred to in Jeremiah as "the time of Jacob's trouble." He reveals that Jerusalem will be in the hands of the Gentiles but this too will eventually change. He reveals that the Jew will evangelize for a moment in history. They will proclaim the message of Jesus Christ as their Savior. And, one day, Jesus WILL come again and His feet will stand upon the Mount of Olives, THEN...the Jews will turn to Him in faith and love. (Zech. 12:10)

This will be God's ultimate and final answer to His plan and purpose for the Jews. Will you join in praying for the fulfillment of His perfect plan? Will you stand in battle and proclaim the truth to the Jews? Remember, God promises, "I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee." (Gen. 12:3) Israel, God's "glory" is not dead but lives for the ultimate fulfillment of God's plan.

Brother Len Wertz

OUR GOD TURNED THE CURSE INTO A BLESSING

Nehemiah 13:1-2, "On that day they read in the book of Moses in the audience of the people; and therein was found written, that the Ammonite and the Moabite should not come into the congregation of God forever; Because they met not the children of Israel with bread and with water, but hired Balaam against them, that he should curse them: howbeit our God turned the curse into a blessing."

Galatians 3:9, "So then they which be of faith are blessed with faithful Abraham."

If we read "the book" as they did in the days of Nehemiah with an open mind and the leading of the Holy Spirit we will find that the true Church has the blessing of God upon it today. An old Gospel song says it like this:

"Every promise in the book is mine,
Every chapter, every verse, every line."

The child of God, born again through the blood of Jesus Christ, can claim every spiritual blessing in God's Holy Word and many times physical blessings are given also.

"For as many as are of the works of the law are under the curse:

which are written in the book of the law to do them." Galatians 3:10. In James 2:10 we read, "For whosoever shall keep the whole law, and yet offend in one point, he is guilty of all." In our mortal bodies we can not hope to keep the law of God in a perfect way. Thus we find ourselves under the curse. We are all destined to spend an eternity in a burning Hell. James tells us that even if we could keep the Ten Commandments in a perfect way we are still guilty if we offend in one point. Who of us is able not to be angry when we should not be? Is there one among us that has never had an evil thought? Have we ever told a lie without meaning to?

"But that no man is justified by the law in the sight of God, it is evident: for, The just shall live by faith." Galatians 3:11. The Church has an enemy in the same category as the Ammonites and the Moabites. It should not come into the congregation of God. This enemy is self-righteousness. "And the law is not of faith: but, The man that doeth them shall live in them." Galatians 3:12. The enemy, self-righteousness would lead you back to the law, the Old Testament, for faith and practice. Paul is not saying that the law is not the Word of God. But he is saying that those who would use the Old Testament for faith and practice are still under the curse. Those who follow this line of thinking would never think of themselves as being self-righteous. But they are so built up in their own theology that they deprive those who come to them for spiritual help of the bread of life within the New Testament and the water of truth that fills the body, mind and soul with the peace of the Lord.

"Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:" Galatians 3:13. PRAISE THE LORD! Our God turned the curse into a blessing! Balaam was a disobedient prophet (if not a false one). He has his counterpart in those who deny the need of the blood of Jesus Christ for salvation. It would have seemed as if the battle of the ages had been lost when our Lord and Savior died that cruel death upon Calvary's tree. But our God turned the curse into a blessing. It was not the god of the many false religions. (Various names but the same false god.) Praise the Lord it is OUR God. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob. The God found in His Holy Book from Genesis to Revelation. The God of the Holy Trinity. Yes, Jesus Christ, God the Son, redeemed us from the curse of the law. No more do we have to fear the wrath of God. For Jesus Christ has been made a curse for us.

"That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith." Galatians 3:14. Are you suffering financial problems? Are you weak and weary from the battle of an ongoing physical ailment? Does life seem hardly worth living because of loneliness? Have family problems torn out your heart and made life seem miserable? Fellow

Christian, do not despair. Our God has given us His Holy Spirit to help us through each day and each trial. It may seem impossible now. But God's word assures us that He will turn each curse into a blessing if we allow Him to. This does not mean that everything will turn out like we would want it to. But we are promised that we will never have to bear a heartache or trial greater than we are able to bear.

We realize that it is easier to type these words than to live the life of reality. Many have come through floods, earthquakes, snow that collapsed roofs and even buildings and other disasters. It is times like this when we must live by faith. Satan would defeat us. But truly God is able to turn every curse into a blessing. Let us praise His name and continue on no matter what may befall us.

If you have never accepted Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior you are still under the curse of the law. Be washed in the blood of the Lamb symbolized in the waters of baptism and be freed from the curse and enjoy the blessing of God as the Spirit calls.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 1, 1934

COMMENTARY

J. F. Britton

The 12th chapter of Hebrews is a strong and imperative commentary for the people of God; exhorting and urging them on to that higher plane of spirituality, that enables them to live above reproach.

Hence the following is taken from the American notes, and will be both edifying and helpful to all of God's people.

First, "Wherefore seeing we also are compassed about with so great a cloud of witnesses." The reference is to the Grecian games, in which the racers were surrounded by a vast multitude of spectators. Here the witnesses are those who have themselves run the heavenly race and obtained the reward of faith. Every weight, everything which can hinder our progress in the way to heaven, just as the earthly racers lay aside every incumbrance, especially the sin to which we are most exposed.

2. Looking unto Jesus; not merely as an example, but also as the author and finisher of faith and of all which was needed for perseverance in duty, even to eternal life. The joy of redeeming multitudes which no man can number from eternal sinning and

suffering, and raising them to eternal holiness and bliss, despising the shame, the shame of being crucified.

3. Consider Him, meditate much on the character and work of Christ, especially His patience under sufferings, that you may be strengthened and encouraged in following His example.

4. Ye have not yet been called as Christ was to suffer death for resisting sin.

5. The exhortation: (Prov. 3:11-12; Rev. 3:19.)

6. Chastening; trials designed to correct your faults and make you better.

7. All the children of God, are ye bastards; treated as such; your faults are not corrected, but you are left to go unreformed to ruin.

8. Fathers of our flesh, earthly parents. Fathers of Spirits; God.

9. After their own pleasures; as they chose or thought best. Be partakers; become holy like Him.

10. The peaceable fruit of righteousness; the chastisement yields, like a good tree, the good fruit of righteousness, which always has for its companion "the peace of God which passeth all understanding." (Phil. 4:7.)

11. Lift up; encourage animate the desponding. (Isa. 35: 3-4.)

12. Make straight paths for your feet; walk in the plain way of duty, and that not merely for your own sake, but for the sake of the feeble and halting among your brethren; that they, by your good example, may be kept in the right way, and healed of their spiritual infirmities.

13. Follow peace with all; so far as duty will permit. See the Lord; dwell with or enjoy Him.

14. Any man: that is as the connection shows, any man who belongs to your Christian community. Fail of the grace of God; of His grace which bestows eternal life, by being found at last unholly and unprepared for heaven. Root of bitterness; any doctrine or practice adapted to lead men to apostatize from Christ and perish. The words quoted from Deut. 29:18, were originally applied to such a root of bitterness, consisting in apostasy from Jehovah to idolatry.

15. Fornicator - profane person: examples of the "root of bitterness" just referred to. A profane person is here one who, like Esau, despises sacred things and gives up spiritual blessings for sensual enjoyments. One morsel of meat, (Gen. 25:29-34.) Birthright, the right by birth to high temporal and spiritual blessings.

16. No place of repentance: Whether we refer the word repentance to Esau, as some do or with others, to Isaac, the sense remains substantially the same. In the former case the meaning will be that Esau could not make his own repentance avail to change his father's mind; in the latter, that he could not induce Isaac to repent by taking the blessing of the birthright from Jacob, and giving it to him.

He had sold it for a mess of pottage, and it was gone forever. (Gen. 27:34-40.) So would be the blessing of following Christ, if they should renounce Him to escape suffering or to enjoy worldly goods.

17. Now follows an exhortation which contains, first, an encouragement drawn from the gracious character of the Christian dispensation as contrasted with severity of the Mosaic law; secondly, a warding against apostasy under such a glorious dispensation, in view of its greater guilt and severer punishment.

18. The mount: Siani and the terrors which surround it at the giving of the law. (Exod. 19:9-26; 20:1-22.) Here as in (Gal 4:24-25) Sinai represents the whole Mosiac economy. That might be touched, the reference is not merely to its material nature, but to the peril of touching it. Verse 20.

19. If so much as a beast touch the mountain; much more a man. (Exod. 19:12-13; 21:24.) This prohibition shadowed forth the distance from himself at which the holy God, under the Mosiac economy kept sinful men. Compare chapter 9:8-22, unto Mount Zion, the city of the living God, the heavenly Jerusalem; to the true spiritual Zion and Jerusalem, of which the earthly Zion which its city was an emblem; that is, to the privileges, hopes, and blessings of the Christian dispensation and the holy family of God under it. Compare the words of the apostle, Gal. 4:26: "Jerusalem which is above is free, which is the mother of us all." An innumerable company of angels; who make a part of God's universal family, of which Christ is the head. (Eph. 1:10, Col 1:20-23.)

20. The general assembly and church; here distinguished from "the spirits of just men made perfect," probably meaning therefore the church on earth, so far as it consists of true believers.

21. The first born: the word in the original is plural. It describes either all God's true children, as each admitted, in and through Christ, to the privileges of first born sons, that is, to a preeminent place in God's favor; or, as some think, the more eminent among them, as patriarchs, prophets, and apostles, which are written in heaven, enrolled there in Lamb's book of life. The spirits of just men, who await in God's presence the resurrection of the just. Made perfect, they have gone through the conflict with sin and suffering, obtained the victory, and been made perfect in holiness and blessedness; not in the sense of having reached the consummation of their bliss, which is reserved for the final resurrection, but in the sense of being forever freed from sin and suffering.

22. The blood of sprinkling, which cleanses our consciences from the guilt and defilement of sin, and thus speaks peace to them. (Chapter 9:14; 10:22; I Pet. 1:2.) That of Abel, which called to God for vengeance. (Gen. 4:10.)

23. Him that speaketh in the revelations, the promises, and the threatenings of the gospel, Refused Him that spake on earth;

apostalized from the Jewish religion revealed by Moses (Deut. 13:6-10.) Him that speaketh from heaven, God, by Jesus Christ. (Chap. 1:2.)

24. Then, when He gave the law at Mount Sinai. (Exod. 19:18.) Not the earth only but also heaven, (Hag. 2:6) where the words are, "I will shake the heavens, and the earth, and the sea, and the dry land; and I will shake all nations, and the desire of all nations shall come." It is a shaking and removal of everything that is in its nature transitory and perishable, not merely the old Mosiac dispensation, but also every human power opposed to the kingdom of Christ. Compare for the figure (Isa. 13:13; Joel 3:16; Matt. 24:29) and the notes on those passages.

25. Things that are shaken, that is, as the margin says, things that can be shaken. See the note to the preceding verse. Things that are made - nearly equivalent to things "made with hands," and therefore transitory. (Chap. 9:11.) Which cannot be shaken: The kingdom of Christ and the eternal spiritual blessings connected with it. This shaking is the thrice repeated over-turning of (Ezek. 21:27.) It covers the whole history of Christ's kingdom from its beginning to its perfect establishment.

26. Let us have grace; through the grace by which alone we can render acceptable service to God is His gift, yet we are responsible for possessing it, since it is freely offered to all, and all will have it who do not repel and reject it by a disobedient spirit. Serve God, perseveringly, to whatever troubles it may expose us. Godly fear; having respect to all God's commandments. (Psa. 119:6; Jer. 32:40.)

27. A consuming fire; (Deut. 4:24.) He is such to all rejecters of our Lord Jesus Christ, especially those who have apostatized from Him. Hence all who have set out in the way to heaven should persevere, whatever trials may assail them, till faith is swallowed up in vision, through our Lord Jesus Christ.

In view of the foregoing "Commentary" which is an imperative exhortation to press upward and onward, in the merits of our Lord Jesus Christ for that eternal "Peace of God, which passeth all understanding." (Phil. 4:7.) Amen.

ARISE AND SHINE

THE WORLD IS DARK

It lies in sin and wickedness,
With lust on every hand,
And people showing no respect
For what the laws demand.

For pleasure seeking multitudes
Go down destruction's way.
No time for church, no time for God,
No time to praise and pray.

With earthly honor, wealth and fame
Their one and only goal,
They live in pride and self esteem,
Forgotten is the soul.

THE WORLD NEEDS LIGHT

Rise up, O Church of God arise
And let your glory shine
This sin dark world to penetrate
By Jesus' love divine.

Be witnesses at home, abroad,
Let men see Christ in you.
Go tell the lost in heathen lands
The gospel message true.

Hold forth God's Word to light the way
That other sould may see
That whosoever will may taste
Salvation full and free.

-Pauline Ressler

Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

OBITUARIES

RAYMOND LORENZ

Bro. Raymond H. Lorenz was born June 6, 1908 in Howard County, Indiana. He was the son of Peter and Clara (Kendall) Lorenz. He died November 23, 1993 at Goshen, Indiana.

On April 30, 1932 he married Beulah Sproal who survives along with two daughters, Martha (Mrs. Charles) Lewallen, Syracuse, Indiana and Mary (Mrs. James) Combs, Topeka, Indiana; four sons,

Merle, Goshen, Indiana, John, New Paris, Indiana, Kenneth, Grand Rapids, Michigan and Gary, Union, Michigan, twenty grandchildren and thirty one great-grandchildren. Also surviving are three sisters, Opal Sallee, Kokomo, Indiana, Alma Parker, Peru, Indiana, Almeda Strayer, Marion, Indiana; two brothers, Paul, Encampment, Wyoming and Pete, Amboy, Indiana. He was preceded in death by two daughters and three sisters.

He was a member of the Goshen Dunkard Brethren Church.

He was a polisher and plater with West Dodd Lightening Rod Company from which he retired in 1982.

Funeral services were held at the Yoder-Culp Funeral Home, Goshen, Indiana on November 26, 1993. Bro. Terry Gunderman conducted the service. Burial was in Sugar Grove Cemetery.

DAVID UPLINGER

Bro. David Phillip Uplinger, the youngest son of Wilbur L. and Thelma (Myers) Uplinger, was born in Canton, Ohio on July 21, 1956 and departed this life on Thanksgiving Day, November 25, 1993 at Rockingham Memorial Hospital at the age of 37 years, 4 months and 5 days.

He spent his early life in Vienna, Virginia before moving to the Mount Crawford area twenty two years ago.

Bro. Uplinger graduated from Turner Ashby High School. He worked for Walker Manufacturing Company for thirteen years. He had been in poor health for five years.

David joined the Dayton Dunkard Brethren Church at the age of twelve. He was an adult Sunday School teacher for a number of years and he will be greatly missed by his congregation. His life was an inspiration to all of us.

Surviving in addition to his parents are two brothers, Wilbur L. Uplinger, Jr. of Carlisle, Pennsylvania and Richard Lee of Radford, Virginia; three sisters, Jane Liskey of Manassas, Virginia, Carolyn Kay White of Woodbridge, Virginia and Jackie Carr of Lacey Springs, Virginia; also a grandmother, Mary Uplinger of North Canton, Ohio and a number of nieces and nephews.

The funeral was held on Saturday, November 27, at 3 P.M. at the Lindsey Harrisonburg Funeral Home by Elder Eugene M. Kauffman and Pastor Bruce Creswell. Burial was in the Eastlawn Memorial Gardens of Harrisonburg.

The family wishes to thank every one for their many kind deeds and prayers and support during the years of his illness and bereavement.

NEWS ITEMS

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, the Bethel Congregation plans a week of Revival, April 10 through 17 with Bro. Ray Stuber as the evangelist. Come praying for these services that the Word will fall on fertile soil and souls will be saved for eternity.

Sister Della Ebling, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

The Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church invites every one to our District Meeting weekend, April 9 and 10. Services begin Friday, April 8 at 7:30 P.M. Saturday will begin with District Meeting followed by Lovefeast Services that evening. We plan services all day Sunday.

If you are unable to attend we ask your presence in thought and prayer.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

Luke 15:7, "...likewise joy shall be in heaven..." and we share that joy on earth, as one of the Pleasant Home Brethren School students, Ciara Gish, was baptized on a rainy evening.

The invitation is given for your attendance at our Spring Lovefeast and District Meeting, Easter weekend. The first service is on Friday evening, April 1, 1994. We invite the prayers of those who cannot attend.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 6

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

RESURRECTION LIFE

"Buried with Christ," and raised with Him too;
What is there left for me to do?
Simply to cease from struggling and strife,
Simply to "walk in the newness of life."

"Risen with Christ," my glorious Head,
Holiness now the path I tread,
Beautiful thought, while walking therein:
"He that is dead is freed from all sin."

Living with Christ, who "dieth no more,"
Following Christ, who goes before;
I am from bondage utterly freed,
Reckoning self as now "dead indeed."

Living for Christ, my members I yield,
Servants to God, for ever sealed,
"Not under law," I'm now "under grace,"
Sin is dethroned, and Christ takes its place.

-T. Ryder

RESURRECTION

Peter and John were threatened very strongly by the Jewish elders. These religious hypocrites wanted to prevent the Apostles from preaching about Jesus and His resurrection. His resurrection showed their impotence. They had had a major part in having Him crucified, but they could not control Him or His followers after His resurrection.

Although they were threatened and even sometimes punished, the early Christians continued to pray for boldness in proclaiming His resurrection. They faced major opposition. The wicked opposed the reformatory elements of their message. The Jewish leaders threatened them because they continued to preach about Jesus Christ.

The main thrust of the Apostles' preaching was the resurrection of Jesus. They were serving a living, ascended Saviour. They were not serving a dead hero or a dead doctrine, their leader was alive and they were going to serve Him boldly. The whole Book of Acts is a history of their bold service.

They went many places far from Jerusalem. They went throughout Judea and Samaria and soon were spreading the gospel unto the uttermost parts of the earth. They spoke bravely in Jerusalem, the headquarters of the Jewish religion, as well in many places where the Gentiles ruled. The earliest converts were those who had come to Jerusalem for Passover and Pentecost, two of the most important Jewish feasts established in the Mosaic Law. After a time of learning and strengthening in Jerusalem, the Church was thrust forth into the nearer and farther world by the persecutions that came upon them. The message that they carried wherever they went was the resurrection of Jesus.

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The importance of the message was that there was a means of forgiveness of sins and having fellowship with God. Without the resurrection, Christianity would have been as powerless as all other religions. But with the resurrection they had a living, risen Saviour, at the Father's right hand. God had shown His approval of Jesus' sacrifice on the cross for men's sins by the resurrection. If Jesus had remained in the grave there would have been no hope for sinful mankind. He did not remain there, so there is forgiveness of sins for those who will accept His sacrifice to cover their sins. Each child of God also has the hope of a resurrection beyond the grave.

Death and the grave do not need to be the end of man's existence. They only end his earthly existence. There will be an existence beyond death. That existence will either be an eternity spent in the horrors of hell or in the beauties of Heaven. Without the resurrection there would only be a fearful looking forward to the rigors of Hell. With the resurrection there is hope for each believer.

The Apostles and other early Church members were energized by this hope. They were willing to face any danger. They would be willing victims of persecution for they did not need to fear death. Death would not be the final chapter in their lives. They could look forward to a Home better than any home they would ever know here. Often as the disciples of Jesus they had to share the lack of accommodations that was His experience. Persecuted and exiled, they often had to live under harsh conditions, so their homes on earth were nearly non-existent or impoverished. A mansion in His Father's House was far better than any they had known here.

Not only was the resurrection important to the First Century Church, it has remained important to our day. Whenever the Church has forgotten the importance of Christ's resurrection and its implications for Christians of all ages, she has been weak and in need of reformation. The Church that forgets the resurrection is the church that forgets all facets of Christian living. The Christian life, with its standards and boundaries, is meaningless without the resurrection. If Christ did not resurrect and if there will be no general resurrection there is no need to live such a restricted life. Each might as well live to please himself for there is no future to doing good. Doing good is only a burden and hardship. But a resurrection means there is a reason for a life to be conformed to the pleasure of God.

The resurrection needs to be a dynamic belief and reality in our Christian lives today. The resurrection must have meaning to us beyond the events associated with Easter. The resurrection must be a power in our lives every day of the year not just one day or season.

Jesus arose that you might have eternal life and forgiveness of sins. Have you appropriated the resurrection of Jesus into your life? Does your daily life reflect that resurrection power?

THE THIEF ON THE CROSS

The thief on the cross has been the subject of many articles and sermons. We do not claim to have any special insights or new revelations on the subject. What you are about to read you probably "heard" before, but we believe it bears repeating.

In Matthew 27:41-44 we read these words. "Likewise also the chief priests mocking him, with the scribes and elders, said, He saved others; himself he cannot save. If he be the King of Israel, let him now come down from the cross, and we will believe him. He trusted in God; let him deliver him now, if he will have him: for he said, I am the Son of God. The thieves also, which were crucified with him, cast the same in his teeth."

We find here a picture of our old sinful nature. Paul describes this nature beginning at Romans 3:10. "As it is written, There is none righteous, no, not one:" Every child born was born with a sinful nature. We did not have to learn how to sin. We inherited this ability through our adamic heritage.

"There is none that understandeth, there is none that seeketh after God." For those who have been raised in a Christian home and loved the Lord from early childhood this may seem to be untrue. However, the Apostle Paul is saying that we can not understand the truths of God nor will we seek Him on our own. A Christian home environment is certainly a plus factor, yet it takes the Holy Spirit to reveal our need of a Saviour and to guide us in this direction.

"They are all gone out of the way, they are together become unprofitable; there is none that doeth good, no, not one." Here again we may think that Paul is "stretching the truth." Even many who are deep in sin will help others in time of need. But the Apostle Paul is saying that we can "do good" but if our heart is not right with God it is the same as evil in the sight of God.

"Their throat is a open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:" We can be "religious" and still have our old sinful nature. We have "chief priests, scribes and elders" today who deny that Jesus Christ was truly the Son of God. Many with the old sinful nature take the name of God and the Lord Jesus Christ in vain with nary a thought. As the song says, "He is more than just a swear word, He is the Holy Son of God." We doubt if anyone living has not lied at one time in their life.

"Whose mouth is full of cursing and bitterness:" Not only do many curse but most (if not all) of us have "bad mouthed" our parents at one time or another. This root of bitterness is heard all too often when differences appear in the church. Is our sinful nature completely dead after a salvation experience?

"Their feet are swift to shed blood." Do you realize that your sin and mine was the reason Jesus Christ had to shed His blood? In reality, WE crucified the Lord of Glory!

"Destruction and misery are in their ways:" Christians may experience difficulty in their lives but those who have never found the Lord Jesus Christ precious to their soul have no one to help them along life's way.

"And the way of peace have they not known:" When our old sinful nature has the rule we have no peace in our soul. Many try to find peace in some other source. This often leads to depression, suicide or acts of crime. "There is no fear of God before their eyes." Our old sinful nature tells us that "there is only one life to live so live it to the fullest." Television, radio and magazine commercials encourage this. But the final result is eternity in a burning Hell.

In Mark 15:27-28 we read, "And with him they crucify two thieves; the one on his right hand, and the other on his left. And the scripture was fulfilled, which saith, And he was numbered with the transgressors." In II Corinthians 5:21 we read, "For he hath made him to be sin for us, who knew no sin; that we might be made the righteousness of God in him." We can only add, "PRAISE THE LORD!" GLORY HALLELUJAH! THANK YOU JESUS!

In Luke 23:39-43 we find that one of the thieves (called a malefactor in this portion of Scripture) had a change of heart. First he saw a need of a Savior. He said to the other thief, "Dost not thou fear God, seeing thou art in the same condemnation?" When the Holy Spirit convicts us of sin He puts a fear of God into our heart that we must respond to. Next he confessed that he was a sinner. He said, "And we indeed justly; for we receive the due reward of our deeds." No individual was truly saved that did not recognize that they were a sinner. He followed this with repentance. He said, "Lord, remember me when thou comest into thy kingdom." He called Jesus Christ "Lord." If we do not make Jesus Christ Lord of our life He can not be our Savior. His words "remember me" were a confession of a need of cleansing of sin. Jesus Christ heard his plea and promised him, "Verily I say unto thee, to day shalt thou be with me in paradise."

In John 19:17-18 we find that Jesus bore His cross and was crucified between the two thieves. Jesus Christ bore the shame of the cross and was crucified for all humanity, the two thieves being the symbol of this. This account is often used as an argument to "prove" that baptism is not essential for salvation. We must keep two things in mind. First the thief on the cross had no opportunity for baptism. Even more important, this was before the death of Jesus Christ, His resurrection and the start of the Church. The thief also never received the Holy Spirit. Does this also make this "nonessential for salvation?"

One of the thieves never repented. Will this be your final decision? If so you will never have the promise of life eternal. If you are saved make sure He is Lord of your life in deed as well as in your speech.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

IT CAME TO PASS

It came to pass one starry night
A blessed babe was born,
Of a virgin maiden, pure and clean,
In a stable so forlorn.

It came to pass the little babe
Grew up to be a lad,
And taught in the temple at the age of 12
The things of His father, God.

It came to pass when the lad matured
Into a fine young man,
He healed the sick, raised the dead;
His people did not understand.

It came to pass one darkened day
He died upon a tree,
He shed His blood and bore the pain,
He died for you and me.

I came to pass on three days hence,
He rose up from the grave!
Oh, glorious victory for each of us,
Eternal life we have!

And it shall come to pass one day,
The trump of God shall sound,
He'll gather the saints up in the air,
And we'll be heaven bound.

So ready your heart, dear friend, today,
Don't put it off till last,
For Jesus has promised to come again;
This, too, shall come to pass

Sister Martha Heer

AND YOU...HATH HE RECONCILED

Colossians 1:21

Reconciled to whom? To God. How? In the body of His flesh, through death. This reconciliation is effected alone through the mediation of Him who died for us, and rose again; of which the apostle speaks when he says, "God was in Christ reconciling the world unto Himself, not imputing unto them their trespasses." We had provoked Jehovah, and He could easily and righteously have destroyed us. We lay entirely at His mercy, and we had no claim to His pity. But when He might have come against us in flaming fire, with His holy angels, to take vengeance on us who knew Him not, and did not obey Him, behold, He Himself comes forward arrayed as the God of love. There were difficulties in the way of our reconciliation: He removed them. A ransom was necessary: He provided it. A righteousness was demanded: He has wrought and brought in EVERLASTING righteousness. "He spared not His Son, but delivered Him up for us all," that we may have the assurance that "with Him He will also freely give us all things."

Oh, let us remember that in thus reconciling us, He did not wait for our submission. He formed the plan Himself, and He accomplished it; and "having made peace through the blood of His cross by Him, to reconcile all things unto Himself," and having opened a new and living way "into the holiest of all, by the blood of Jesus."

He Himself advances. He comes forward. He invites us. He presses us, "who were alienated and enemies in our minds by wicked works," to enter in. Hid as if we were among the trees of the garden, by fear, the voice of thunder would only have driven us yet farther off. But the still, small voice of peace, saying unto us, "Be ye reconciled unto God," draws us forth, brings us to His dear feet, encourages us to say, "Oh Lord, I will praise thee; though Thou wast angry with me, thine anger is turned away, and thou comfortest me," and to pray, "Lord, I am thine, save me! Lord, I am thine, employ me!"

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

...for Thine be the glory...

What an awesome experience it is to be involved in the glory of God. The disciples witnessed this glory in many unique ways. They were given great evidences that Jesus was the Son of God. The

glory was revealed in words, in signs and miracles recorded in the Gospels and in the events of Jesus' life.

The Apostle declared expressly that those who were with Him could perceive the glory within Him. They could do it as they heard the teaching He brought forth from God. There was a strong connection between the "Word" and glory. In the Old Testament there is a strong interrelationship between glory and revelation. We see the same in the New Testament. The glory of God is revealed in the teachings of Jesus. He is the Word who became flesh. When John described the glory of His Sonship, he said that it was FULL OF GRACE AND TRUTH. When Jesus talked about how He had glorified God, He said that He had REVEALED HIS NAME to those whom God had given Him. There is the same connection between the glory of God and the Name of God. Both represent God himself.

The glory of self-sacrificing love is also revealed in the signs of Jesus. Called miracles in the other Gospels, the Gospel of John refers to these interventions into the natural course of history as SIGNS. By signs, John means that they stand as a peculiar witness to the divine nature of the Lord. The sign was given as a proof that a message of revelation really came from God. Again, in John, the signs were usually connected with great teachings of Jesus. The miraculous act became a demonstration of Jesus' teaching. Thus, they demonstrated His glory, the divine presence within His being.

When Jesus multiplied the five loaves and two fishes, He taught that He was the Bread of Life. When He taught He was the Light of the World, He also gave a blind man physical and spiritual sight. After He declared that He was the Resurrection and the Life, he called Lazarus to come back from the dead. The signs show the glory of Christ.

It was at the first of these great miracles, the wedding at Cana, where Jesus changed the water into wine, that the Apostle showed the connection between the miracles of Jesus and the glory resident within His person. He says, "This, the first of His miraculous signs, Jesus performed in Cana of Galilee." He thus revealed His glory and His disciples put their faith in Him. The miracles not only showed Jesus' glory by the power He demonstrated in the marvelous acts, but they also became the basis for the disciple's faith. That demonstration of the power of God became the basis for their complete trust in the deity of Christ. It revealed His glory.

In John 1:14, John described the glory of the One and Only Son as full of grace and truth. We have seen that truth relates to revelation. Grace relates to the saving power of God demonstrated through Jesus' power within the world. If truth reveals His glory through His teaching, we see His glory through the saving power of His signs.

No event in the Gospels shows us Jesus' divine glory more clearly than the Transfiguration. He took three disciples with Him onto the mountain where His appearance was transformed into a glowing, heavenly splendor. We can only describe it as GLORY. Moses and Elijah appeared with Him also in a glorified form. When the disciples became aware of what was happening, they were filled with awe. Peter suggested that they build three tabernacles to honor those who came to be with Jesus. In that moment, the others were covered with a cloud and disappeared. Jesus alone stood before them in all of His splendor. The voice from heaven declared that He was the divine Son of God and that they were to hear Him.

The Church today should not only see the glory of God but we should experience it. We can share in the glory that Jesus had with the Father before the foundation of the world.

Faith must become sight. Paul pictures us as growing into this glorification. He indicates that the process begins now...in this age. We are BEING TRANSFORMED into His likeness with ever-increasing glory.

Glory is an essential part of the process by which the presence of God becomes known to man. Glory makes the invisible God visible to us. Through the manifestation of His glory, God becomes immanent and personal to us. The otherworldliness of God is comprehended as we observe the "reflection" of His glory.

.....For thine art the...glory! Amen.

Brother Len Wertz

SIXTY YEARS AGO

March 15, 1934

SHEEP

Clarence Hiltz

Are we as sheep ought to be? Do we live together as sheep, as sheep of Christ, the Shepherd over us?

Let us consider the flock of sheep which we have to take care of, each flock knows their master. Do we know our master when He calls us, do we harken unto His call, as we should?

The sheep which we take care of when called follow where we lead them, they stand in a flock close together peaceable, no strife or anger, as is the case with man too often.

Let us take heed to the call of Christ and follow Him daily for He is our only shepherd.

The sheep which we have are bought and sold and have so many different masters they do not know what is to be done, they do not

come at first for they know not their shepherd. We have only one shepherd, He is ever ours, but we must follow Him to be His sheep and He is our shepherd. Do we find our sheep have much contention? "No!" Let us examine ourselves, do we have much contention or strife?

Only by pride cometh contention. "Beware," when we have contention there is pride.

(John 10:1) "Verily, Verily, I say unto you, He that entereth not by the door into the sheepfold, but climbeth up some other way, the same is a thief and a robber."

There are those which climb up some other way. Let us ponder over these things that we may keep the commandments of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Let us take notice to the second verse. "But he that entereth in by the door is the shepherd of the sheep." What must we do to enter in by the door? Just follow Him, and do what he sayeth. This is our duty if we profess to be one of Christ's sheep.

He is our example. (John 13:15) "For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you." We should humble ourselves before Him.

We can find no where in the thirteenth chapter of John that Christ washed the disciples feet because they were dusty, any man that speaketh thus, is trying to climb up some other way.

What Christ hath written He hath written. He gave us the commandments to do them, literally and not spiritualize them as some do.

We follow Christ as sheep by keeping His commandments. We as Christ's sheep do these commandments and we shall be an example to those who are not in the ark of safety.

"And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice. And a stranger will they not follow, but will flee from him: for they know not the voice of strangers." If we love the Lord our God and do His commandments we will hear Him, for we know Him, because He is our shepherd and He knoweth His flock.

Jesus sayeth unto us, "I and the door: by me if any man enter in, he shall be saved, and shall go in and out, and find pasture." If we harken unto His calling we shall follow Him and we will be able to receive understanding. It is a pleasant and happy life to serve our Lord and Master Jesus Christ; to follow Him more steadfastly as sheep.

"The thief cometh not, but for to steal, and to kill, and to destroy: I am come that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Our sheep have life but not forever. Do we have life forever? We have that promise of eternal life, and everlasting life,

our earthly bodies shall vanish away, but a new body will be given unto us which will be perfect.

"I am the good shepherd: the good shepherd giveth his life for the sheep."

We may think we give close attention to our sheep as a shepherd, but nevertheless Christ careth day and night for His sheep, He watches over them at all times, and if any go astray He seeketh until He find.

"But he that is an hireling, and not the shepherd, whose own the sheep are not, seeth the wolf coming, and leaveth the sheep, and fleeth: and the wolf catcheth them, and scattereth the sheep."

Some of us who are hired men do not care for the things that we ought to, we are more as the hireling of the sheep in John 10:12, we care not for the things as we ought; when a thief cometh we are apt to flee because we are hired men and do not own the sheep.

Let us ponder these things in our heart that we might be more concerned about our duties.

"The hireling fleeth, because he is an hireling, and careth not for the sheep. I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." Christ is our shepherd and He knows His sheep and we know Him, if we keep His commandments. It is a joy to us to know that we have a true shepherd.

"As the Father knoweth me, even so know I the Father: and I lay down my life for the sheep."

Christ careth much for the sheep for He lay His life down for us. We ought to be more concerned about our shepherd which is Christ the Lord, so ought we to love one another as sheep of Christ.

"And other sheep I have, which are not of this fold: them also I must bring, and they shall hear my voice; and there shall be one fold, and one shepherd." This 16th verse of John, 10th chapter, tells us plainly that there will be one sheepfold, when we shall see Him. Brethren, let us take heed lest we be not of this fold.

Christ sayeth, "therefore doth my Father love me, because I lay down my life, that I might take it again." God loved His Son so highly that God hath highly exalted Christ, our savior, gave Him a name that is above every name.

"That at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, of things in heaven, and things in earth, and things under the earth." (Phil 2:10.) Here we see that we should bow on our knees in prayer, this is the will of the Lord our Savior. But the world does not bow on their knees because they are too proud, they will not humble themselves before Christ. We can not take the life of Christ from Him for He sayeth, "No man taketh it from me, but I lay it down of myself. I have power to lay it down, and I have power to take it again. This commandment have I received of my Father." (John 2:18-21) "Then answered the Jews and

said unto him, What sign sheweth thou unto us, seeing that thou doest these things? Jesus answered and said unto them, Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up. Then said the Jews, Four and six years was this temple in building, and wilt thou rear it up in three days? But he spake of the temple of his body." Our dear Shepherd hath done many wonderful works which the Jews did not understand, many sayings of which Christ hath spoken of, but let us harken unto our Savior that we may understand and grow in grace and the knowledge of His truth.

THE BIBLE IS...

To the traveler it's a roadmap,
To the runner, it's a path,
To the searcher it's a treasure
To the sinner it is wrath.

To the believer it's salvation,
To the slothful, it's a prod,
To the humble, it is patience,
To the doubting— trust in God.

To the leader it's direction,
To the follower it's a guide,
To the trusting it's a haven,
To the scared a place to hide.

To the preacher it's a sermon,
To the convert it's a prize,
To the youth it is a challenge,
To the aged a home in the skies.

To the hungry, it's a bread of life,
To the thirst it's a spring,
To a child it is a story,
To the lost a heavenly king.

To the penitent it's a pardon,
To the wayward it's a rod,
To the weary it is comfort,
To the faithful IT IS GOD.

-E. E. Opdyke, Sr.

Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

OBITUARIES

ZETTA SCHULTZ

Sis. Luzetta Leah (Shotwell) Schultz was born March 8, 1904, at David City, Nebraska, and departed this life January 14, 1994 at the age of 89 years, 10 months and 6 days at Turlock, California.

She was married to Clyde Schultz, December 24, 1924, at Doxey, Oklahoma. They resided in Glendora, California for twenty years. In 1944, they moved to Turlock, California. In 1957 they moved to Van Nuys, California, where they lived before returning to Turlock in 1967, where she spent the remainder of her life.

Sis. Zetta was baptized in 1922 and was a member of the Church of the Brethren until 1944, when they united with the Dunkard Brethren. She was faithful in her Christian life and in attending her church services.

Bro. Clyde and Sis. Zetta were supporters of the Torreon Navajo Mission at Cuba, New Mexico. They sponsored a Navajo boy at the Mission School and took supplies to Torreon several years.

She leaves to mourn her passing: three children, Eleanor Hendrickson, Evelyn Fullerton and Claude Schultz, all of Turlock, California; one foster son, Jerry Carr of Fresno, California; ten grandchildren and nineteen great-grandchildren.

Sis. Zetta was from a family of fourteen; she being the eldest with a twin brother. Her brothers and sisters who are still living are Rose Velta McAdams of Colorado, Gertrude Baster of Bishop, California, Lester Shotwell of Stockton, California, Ellsworth Shotwell of Galt, California, George Shotwell of Kansas, Lillie Bennett of Fontana, California, Stella Smith of Glendora, California, Vesta Sossaman and Vida Sossaman both of Arkansas.

Sis. Zetta liked to travel. She was a lover of nature and enjoyed being with her family at their cabin in the mountains near Arnold, California not far from Calaveras Big Trees.

Her love and concern for her neighbors and friends is well-known. She was a homemaker and loved her family and was lovingly cared for by her children in her latter years. She loved her Lord and her Church and was present many times when she wasn't well. Her family will remember her as a faithful wife, a loving mother, grandmother and great-grandmother.

The family wishes to express their appreciation for the help given

them during her illness and in the present time of bereavement.

Services at Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church January 18, 1994, were conducted by Elder Rudy Cover, assisted by Elder Hayes Reed. The graveside service was conducted by Elder Henry Walker. Interment was in Turlock Memorial Park Cemetery.

FLORA MYERS

Sister Flora Mae Myers was born November 28, 1918 in Illinois to Oscar P. and Mabel (Lind) Harman, and died September 13, 1993 at the home of her sister at Industry, Illinois. She married Paul B. Myers of Peru, Indiana, March 25, 1951, who survives. She was a homemaker and a member of the Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church.

Surviving besides her husband are three children, Phoebe H. Meeks, Alabama, Eunice L. Fugate and Jonathon B. Myers, Peru, Indiana; two sisters, Alice Miller, Ohio and Martha Harman, Illinois; one brother, David Harman, Illinois; six grandchildren. One sister, Elta Blythe preceded her in death.

Funeral services were September 16 at Flowers-Leedy Funeral Home, Peru, where Elder Harley Rush and Elder Robert Carpenter officiated. Burial was in Metzger Cemetery near Peru where Elder William Carpenter had charge of committal.

LIFE'S CLOCK

The clock of life is wound but once,
And no man has the power
To tell just where the hands will stop-
At late or early hour.

To lose one's wealth is sad indeed,
To lose one's health is more,
To lose one's soul is such a loss
As no man can restore.

The present only is our own;
Live, love, toil with a will.
Place no faith in tomorrow,
For the clock may then be still.
-Author unknown

NEWS ITEMS MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address and telephone number of Bro. Mark Andrews is:
Rt. 1 Box 165 1-A, Peculiar, MO 64078. 816-758-4204.

NOTICE

All business for 1994 General Conference needs to be received by the Writing Clerk by April 15, 1994. Thank you.

Brother Ray R. Reed, 515-992-3031
302 Percival, Dallas Center, IA 50063

SPECIAL THANKS

A special thank you to all who have sent me so many beautiful cards and gifts over the weeks I have been ill. I would like to send each one a personal thank you, but since that is impossible, please accept my sincere thank you in this way. I enjoy the scrap books so much and spend many hours looking at them.

Thanks to all who so faithfully visit me in my home, these visits strengthen me so much, the days get pretty long sometimes.

I'm not talking chemotherapy at present. The treatments are very hard on me. I'm glad for a rest. God is so good. All Praise and Glory go to Him – God bless you, each one.

Please keep me in your prayers.

Sister Margaret Dayhoff

ACCEPT MY HUMBLE THANKS

I take this way to thank each one who remembered my 90th Birthday.

I received many cards, letters of comfort and encouragement, gifts and prayers in my behalf. It is beyond my physical ability to answer each letter.

I worked in the Lord's Vineyard for over fifty years. His promises are SURE. He gave my wife and I many, many safe miles of travel in the work of the Church. We learned to know many Brethren and Sisters in the Dunkard Brethren Church.

I have experienced many times that His Way is the best way. From the time I was put in the Eldership to this present day I have worked with the Elders of the District and of General Conference. I can recall the names of forty six of those Elders who have passed away. There are more, I know. Besides the forty six, I know of five who can no longer serve because of physical disabilities.

In addition, there are a number of Brethren and Sisters in Rest Homes or in their own homes who are ill and need the prayers of the Brotherhood.

We are living in a day when it seems Satan is having his say.

To each and every one, keep faithful. Let your light shine. He will never leave or forsake you!

Your Brother in the Lord.

Brother Paul R. Myers

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1994

April 3 - The Resurrection - John 20:1-36

1. Is your faith stronger than what was shown by Christ's followers?
2. List the ways that Christ's Resurrection impacts your life.

April 10 - Stephen's Defense - Acts 7:1-50.

1. Why did Stephen use a history lesson to begin his defense?
2. How would you describe the spirit of Stephen's defense?

April 17 - "Lay Not This Sin to Their Charge" - Acts 7:51-60.

1. What did Stephen say that prompted violence against him?
2. What qualities in Stephen's life would you desire to emulate in your life?

April 24 - The Gospel Preached in Samaria; Simon, the Sorcerer -
Acts 8:1-25

1. List the miracles in the revival in Samaria.
2. What was Simon's motive in seeking the power of the Holy Spirit?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR APRIL 1994

April 3 - Resurrection Power - John 11:25-26, Eph. 1:17-23,
Rom. 6:5-11, Phil. 3:10-14. I Pet. 1:3-9.

1. How can your understanding of the resurrection bring Spiritual victory?
2. How do we live in the "power of the resurrection?"

April 10 - God Scatters the People - Luke 1:49-51, Gen. 11:1-9.

1. What is the meaning of "Babel?"
2. List the reasons why God scattered people in history?

April 17 - God's Covenant - Gen. 8:20 - 9:29.

1. What prompted God to destroy the earth?
2. What covenant did God make with man?

April 24 - God Gives Promises - I Pet. 1:4-8, Gen. 12:1-13:4.

1. What inheritance has God promised you?
2. How has God blessed the world by the promise given to Abraham?

Paul Stump
10340 N. Diamond Mill
Union, OH 45322

(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 7

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

AWAKE MY SOUL

Awake, my soul; stretch ev'ry nerve,
And press with vigor on;
A heav'nly race demands thy zeal,
And an immortal crown.

A cloud of witnesses around
Hold thee in full survey;
Forget the steps already trod,
And onward urge thy way.

'Tis God's all animating voice
That calls thee from on high;
'Tis his own hand presents the prize
To thine uplifted eye;—

That prize, with peerless glories bright,
Which shall new luster boast,
When victor's wreaths and monarchs' gems
Shall blend in common dust.

-Philip Doddridge

SLEEPWALKING

We have all heard tales concerning sleepwalkers. Some who are afflicted with this habit have narrow escapes from great dangers. It is hard to understand how people can move about so freely and often in precarious ways, yet are not awakened. People who walk in their sleep often go quite some distance and pass not only from room to room within the house but also go outside. These stories often seem fantastic, yet they apparently are true.

A sleepwalker must be asleep. Sleep is something that the young fight and old long for. Children will try many schemes to keep from going to bed and to sleep. Babies will get their days and nights mixed up, so they will be awake when the parents want to sleep and asleep when others are awake. As people become older they begin to appreciate sleep more and more. The young adult after doing hard work or constant study will look forward to the refreshment that sleep will bring, so they will again be able to pursue the vigorous activities of another day. The Sunday afternoon nap is a mainstay of adults, although these naps are often a nuisance to children. The elderly will often spend a great deal of time napping. Though the young may not appreciate sleep now, they will when they grow older.

In the Bible, sleep is often associated with death. When Lazarus died, Jesus spoke of his death as sleep. When the Apostles commented that sleep would be good for a sick person, Jesus corrected the false impression that they had received about Lazarus' condition. The resurrection of Lazarus was like the awaking of someone asleep, for nothing is too hard for Jesus.

More often, sleep is a picture of Spiritual death. The New

THE BIBLE MONITOR

APRIL 1, 1994

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Testament writers speak of the need to awake out of sleep and become alive. They speak to the lost calling them to life through Jesus Christ and His resurrection. For the lost to refuse to accept the blood-wrought work of Jesus is to stay asleep and miss out on life as God intended for it to be lived.

In other passages the writers urge believers to awake from their sleepy, Spiritual condition. Although they are related to God through Jesus Christ, they have not been committed to doing His will. They have not made serving Him and their fellow men their foremost duty. The Bible writers considered this to be sleepiness. There was and still is a need for Christians to awake to their duties. Christians can not afford to be asleep when their Lord has called them to consecrated service. Their sleep may not be as deadly as the sleep of the lost, but the habit of sleepy service can be dangerous for it can allure them not only into a lack of service but into doing actual evil. Christians must not be asleep, but wide awake in their Lord's service.

Sleepwalking is a nonproductive activity not requiring thought or effort. Although a certain amount of physical effort is expended in this activity, it is not a planned effort with a clear-cut goal. Thus sleepwalking is alot like the life lived by those who refuse to establish a viable relationship with God. Those who do not respond to the Gospel are moving through life without an established goal. They move along doing the things that please the flesh and the mind but they are not preparing for the future that all must face. They are moving along the broad way toward the place of suffering and shame. As the sleepwalker awakes and finds himself in some unexpected place, so many will awake when standing before God and hearing His judgement pronounced upon them. At that time they will realize that they have wasted their lives and their financial, physical and mental resources to secure something that will not support them in the eternity that they must face. Sleepwalking may supply stories that will entertain other people, but it will not produce worthwhile work. Lives lived for self and Satan will be nonproductive, for they will not produce the fruit of the Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit there will be no fruit. Without a relationship with God there will be no Holy Spirit.

Many are sleepwalking through life. They are expending a great deal of energy pleasing themselves and Satan, but they have failed to please God. Therefore when their life's race is run, they will find themselves awake, but it will be too late. They did not use the opportunity given them in this life to become a member of God's Family. That will cost them dearly and eternally.

Are you awake? Have you established a relationship with God? Or are you just sleepwalking through life? Awake, now, while there is opportunity to prepare for the future. Wake Up!

WHY WE WORSHIP

Acts 2:42, "And they continued stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers."

Acts 20:7a, "And upon the first day of the week, when the disciples came together to break bread, Paul preached unto them..."

First of all, we would like to think about WHY we worship. At this point we are referring to a gathered assembly of believers. In Hebrews 10:25 we find, "Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together, as the manner of some is,..." Therefore, we worship because the Word of God instructs us to do so. We worship in gathered assembly on the first day of the week to celebrate the resurrection of Jesus Christ. There are those who set aside one day a year and call it Easter to celebrate this event. But we should be aware of the fact that every Sunday is resurrection day!

Have you ever thought about the fact that we do not have to worship in gathered assembly? We are speaking in a carnal way and not spiritual. Yet within the soul of every individual is the desire to worship. And everyone worships someone or something, even if it is themselves. So we come together to satisfy this God given desire of the heart. We do this to find peace of mind, richness of soul and strength to meet the trials of life. When the disciples came together on the first day of the week Paul preached unto them. We come together in gathered assembly to find how to continue stedfastly in the apostles' doctrine. It is the duty of our Elders and ministers to proclaim these truths in the fear of God and without the fear of man.

Secondly, we would like to think about why WE worship. The "they" in Acts 2:42 refers to "they that gladly received his word and were baptized." As baptized believers we become a part of the "they." We gather together to enjoy fellowship. Someone has said that he never learned how to worship until he learned how to love.

There is a difference of opinion among Bible authorities as to what "breaking of bread" refers to. Some teach that a bread and cup communion was practiced each Lord's Day. Others say that the believers met in homes and enjoyed a common meal together. We lean toward the latter teaching. As Brethren our high point of worship is the Lovefeast. During this time we enjoy a common meal together. Before we partake of the meal we wash one another's feet. This should prepare our hearts to eat together as one heart, soul and mind.

Last of all we would like to think about why we WORSHIP. In America, we are told, the majority of individuals have some type of connection to a religious organization. But if they do not worship the true God they worship in vain. The God of the Bible is the Holy Trinity.

God the Father, God the Son, (Jesus Christ), and God the Holy Spirit. True worship transcends meeting once a week in gathered assembly. For too many individuals worshipping once a week has nothing to do with their personal life. The Scripture says that they continued stedfastly in prayers. Prayer is an important part of public worship. But it should also be a part of our daily life. It is a good testimony, we believe, when we pause to pray before we eat when in a public eating establishment. But even more important is prayer in our "closet." We pray for our needs, for the needs of others and to express our trials, temptations and woes. All of this is good and needful. But do we ever take the time to praise our Lord in prayer?

As the song writer says, "Oh worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness." We worship a resurrected Lord and Savior. True worship demands that we forsake the things of this world and follow Him.

Who do you worship? Have you found the Lord Jesus Christ to be precious to your soul? Have you accepted His shed blood for the forgiveness of your sins? As a believer is it your heart's desire to continue stedfastly in the apostles' prayers? May your desire be to worship the True God with all of our heart, soul and mind.

Brother James M. Hite
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Palmyra, PA 17078

"SAVIOR LIKE A SHEPHERD LEAD US"

Savior like a Shepherd lead us in the path of truth and light toward the home of peace and rest. As we journey homeward let none fall by the wayside, weak and frail.

Please, Savior, let none fall into sin's brambles, which are Satan's snares, by the rough and stoney way. Homeward, keep us close to Thee. May Thy footprints be plain and fair.

Let each share the journey to that home, so bright and fair, where there is no sorrow. Heaven's joy will be shared with them. Heaven is where we may eat of the tree of life, with plenty to share.

In this world you will soon be lost unless you are very close to Jesus and the cross. Jesus, the light, does not grow dim, so keep close. Follow Him. He is your shepherd. Do not stray, keep close to Him.

Psalm 23:1-3, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake."

I know the Shepherd. I hope that everyone who reads this, will know Him as their own personal Savior. Jesus is the Shepherd. We all look to Him for our salvation.

He will show us His wisdom's plan, when we stand before Him in His likeness. Psalm 17:15, "As for me, I will behold thy face in righteousness: I shall be satisfied, when I awake, with thy likeness."

Brother Lester Bittinger

RR 2 Box 120E

Mt. Solon, VA 22843

MARY'S SON

As I lift my eyes and there behold
My Son suspended in agony,
Thoughts return to years gone by
As I held Him on my knee.

I knew we'd have to give Him up;
Yet praying within it wouldn't come.
They've pulled Him from my enfolding arms,
They're crucifying my beloved son.

I've stood beside Him in recent days,
My heart wrenching in silent grief,
As they spat upon His holy face
Treating Him as a common thief.

He hangs in silent agony,
His fingers writhing in pain.
I gaze into His loving face
And softly speak His name.

"Jesus, my beloved son,
I know that this must be;
But forgive me if I turn my head,
It's a Mother's love, you see."

He turns and looks into my eyes,
Divinest love shines through.
He said, I give you to my friend,
And my friend I give to you."

Then darkness filled the sky above;
The earth began to quake.
The mission He was sent to do
Was done with no mistake.

Then peace flowed o'er my aching breast,
His sacrifice was through.
He not only died for His mother,
He also died for you!

Sister Martha Heer

THE HOLY GHOST

Acts 1:8, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth."

Judges 16:20b, "...I will go out as at other times before, and shake myself, And he wist not that the Lord was departed from him."

Philippians 3:10 says, "That I may know him,..." We love Him who first loved us, and want to do His will. This love we have includes doing our best to try to please the Lord. He understands our frame. He knows we are dust. That is why He provided the Holy Ghost to empower us and teach us all things, because our best was not good enough. What a wonderful God is He to have thought of everything!

But there are those who claim to love God but only seek to please themselves. Samson was one. God favored him, but Samson only sought personal pleasure. When God's spirit was withdrawn Samson was not aware of it. The disciples were told by the Master to tarry in Jerusalem until they were endued with power from on high. They were, as the old railroad sign says, to stop, look, and listen for the Spirit of Almighty God. We need to tune our hearts, as they did. It took time. It took effort. The disciples had to wait for it. They also had to desire it. Luke 11:13 says, "...how much more shall your heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to them that ask him?"

There is no substitute for the Holy Ghost. How many of us have tarried and prayed earnestly for the Holy Ghost to come upon us? How many of us have truly desired a Holy infilling to bless our lives and the lives of our loved ones?

The churches of this world have all kinds of substitutes for the Holy Ghost and the Holy Scriptures. Man-made rules and ordinances are one. The Pharisees said, "We have a law, and by

our law he ought to die, because he made himself the Son of God." (John 19:7) We, as Christians, abide by the Word of God, but since it was God-inspired it did not originate with man. Those that forsake the God-breathed Word also give up all claim to the Holy Ghost and have to rely on the teachings of man, which are much inferior to those of God. These people are easily identified by their carnal attitudes and the worldly, albeit evil, decisions that they make and impose on others. May God help us to be able to discern the Spirit in those around us. May God continue to bless His church, the one that Jesus bought with His own most Precious Blood, and empowered by the Blessed Holy Ghost be our heart's desire, our Comforter, and our Teacher.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

TONGUE

NANCY BEIDLER

James 3:6, "And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that is defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell." Defile: to make impure, to dirty, pollute, to soil, to make unclean. DEATH and LIFE are in the POWER of the TONGUE. Prov. 16:18

James 1:26, "If any man among you seem to be religious, and bridleth not his tongue, but deceiveth his own heart, this man's religion is vain." Bridle: to restrain or govern, check, subdue, to control.

Prov. 10:18, "He that uttereth a slander is a fool." Slander: to injure by malice; to tell a false report. Malice is a disposition, to injure another, evil.

Ps. 39:1, "I said, I will take heed to my ways, that I sin not with my tongue:...." God warns us: "But the tongue can no man tame; it is unruly, full of deadly poison; we are fully responsible for every word we speak. Matt. 12:36, "...every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment." Our tongue will reveal the true thoughts of our inner spirit.

Matt. 12:34, "...for out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaketh." The Holy Spirit is warning against idle and evil words, wrong conclusions and attitudes. We allow our spirit and will to be conveyed by our words.

The words we speak are an indication of the heart. Words have power over our character. We have influence by our words. The jealous, evil-surmising, careless, foolish habit of criticism rejects the

Holy Spirit and grieves Him. Our tongue is a daily reminder and motivation to purify our hearts. We must ask forgiveness for every offense of the tongue, but in so humbling ourselves, we receive more power to purify our hearts. (God gives grace to the humble.)

GUIDELINES FOR OUR TONGUES

1. Dedicate our hearts and tongues to the Lord daily. Rom. 12:1.
2. Put our heart in tune with God's Spirit by daily reading and meditating on His Word. Ps. 119:11, "Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
3. Assume responsibility for every word. "For by thy words thou shalt be justified, and by thy word thou shalt be condemned." Matt. 12:37.
4. Discover from those around us what offensive words we use.
5. Commit ourselves to the purpose of giving a GOOD REPORT and following Matt. 18.
6. Ask forgiveness for any unloving words or attitudes. Matt. 5:23-24.
7. Learn how to use words that will encourage, comfort, inspire, to exhort, edify. Heb. 3:13, "But exhort one another daily,..." Use kind and gracious words, loving words.
8. Listen to our words through ears of others.
9. Discern the spirit of our hearers BEFORE, DURING and AFTER we speak.
10. Urge our friends to tell us when we offend with our words. Prov. 27:5.

SCRIPTURES ON THE TONGUE:

Memorize and use them to help build a spiritual guard.

Prov. 21:23. "Whoso keepeth his mouth and his tongue keepeth his soul from troubles." Prov. 29:20, "Seest thou a man that is hasty in his words? there is more hope of a fool than of him." Prov. 13:3, "He that keepeth his mouth keepeth his life: but he that openeth wide his lips shall have destruction." James 4:11, "Speak not evil one of another..." 1 Peter 3:10, "...let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile." Prov. 15:1, "A soft answer turneth away wrath: but grievous words stir up anger." Psalm 141:3, "Set a watch, O lord, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips."

Because our words are reflections of our hearts, it is essential that we bring into captivity every thought to obedience to Christ. Phil. 4:8. Whatsoever are TRUE, accurate; will it give an accurate impression? HONEST, honorable; should it be imitated by others? JUST, proper; is it appropriate to say? LOVELY, pleasant; will it brighten lives of all who hear it? GOOD REPORT, esteem; will it damage anyone's reputation? VIRTUE, moral excellence; will it motivate others to holy and Godly lives? PRAISE, praiseworthy; will it lift and edify all who hear it? Think on these things.

In obedience to God's Word, let us commit to giving good reports and avoiding bad reports. What is a bad report? Using words, patterns, facial expressions to put someone else in a bad light; it is damaging someone else's reputation with information that does not need to be shared. It is encouraging or spreading discard among others. It will be a bad report if I do not go first to the offender privately with a question of his motive. Prov. 6:16-19, "These six things doth the Lord hate:...and he that soweth discord among brethren." When someone asks for a bad report, give them a good one instead.

As soon as we realize someone is giving us a bad report, we should always lovingly ask him if he has gone to the person yet, say, "Are you telling me so I can go with you to help restore him? Do you feel I am responsible to know about this? I would rather not hear unless I am involved." If we ask for a good report and not able to give it, then we are responsible to go to him privately to attempt to restore him. We must discern the root cause and the offense and go in meekness and love.

God may be using his offense to remind us to work in that area of ourselves. To stop others from giving bad reports, we must first examine and correct wrong motives in our own hearts.

Selected by Hazel Weaver

GOD IS FAITHFUL

Eloise Hill

Why should I feel discouraged?
Why should I feel despair?
I have no temptation
That I'm not able to bear.
All the trials that I have
Are common to man.
Tho' I feel I can't go on.
The Lord tells me I can.
He is faithful to His Word,
He will make a way to escape.

Someone has made it through the trial
You think you can not face.
The Devil wants to make us feel
That others have no trials.
But we cannot see inside their hearts,
They hide their hurts with smiles.
That's just a part of serving God,

Everyone is being tested
Don't ever think you are alone,
That no one understands,
Many saints have been there, too—
But still, for God, they stand.

Don't ever give up, keep holding on.
Just hold on tight to Jesus;
Remember — someone has been there, too.
God will never leave us.

Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers.

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 1, 1934
OUR FUTURE HOME
Ruth Mellott

When we speak of home we usually mean our place of abode; where we work, play and experience joy and sorrow. But we are going to try to say something of our home after our work on earth is done for, "For here we have no continuing city, but we seek one to come." (Heb. 13:14.) "To an inheritance incorruptible, and undefiled, and that fadeth not away, reserved in heaven for you." (I Peter 1:4.)

We, according to His promise, look for new heaven and a new earth, wherein dwelleth righteousness.

Our future home is a great subject to write about, for man's thoughts are so much lower than God's and so with the new city Jerusalem for the apostle Paul said in writing his first letter to the Corinthian brethren (2:9), "But as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him." So it matters not how nice we imagine our future home (if we love and obey Him) will be, it is still more beautiful than we can ever imagine.

Don't you think, dear readers, that Jesus is the kindest, most merciful and best person that ever could have lived in this sinful world? That He should leave His beautiful home in heaven, come and die that agonizing death on the cross that you and I, too, may enjoy His home with Him. But still people are so strong in their own opinions that they won't even receive Him as their Savior. For it is going to be a very small flock compared with the flock on the broad way. Oh, yes, we are to have temptation and trials, too, but we have the kind loving hand of the Father to lead us through them all and then at the end to receive a reward so big that we can't even imagine how great. Luke 12:32 says, "Fear not, little flock; for it is your Father's good pleasure to give you the kingdom."

Now let us notice a little about the city. Before our good Master went away He said in John 14:2-3, "In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again, and receive you unto myself; that where I am, there ye may be also."

If we obey Him then we will know if our earthly house of this tabernacle were dissolved we have a building of God, an house not made with hands, eternal in the heavens; for we are to meet the Lord in the air; and so shall ever be with the Lord, in that beautiful city where they need not the sun, nor the moon or the stars, for God is the Light.

When John was exiled on the lonely Isle of Patmos, away from all human, God gave him a vision or a better hope for the hereafter by showing him what He had prepared for him, and all who love His appearing.

We have this record from John in Rev. 21. Please read. The city twelve thousand furlongs or 1500 miles long, wide and high has a wall both great and high of jasper with twelve gates of twelve pearls. Each gate of a different pearl. The gates shall ever be open, for there we are to be free from fear and temptation. The city hath twelve solid foundations, each one made of a precious stone, representing the twelve apostles of the Lamb. The street of the city is of gold so pure that it is as transparent glass.

Dear readers let's strive that we may have our part of joy in this beautiful city that God hath prepared for them that love Him. Where God Himself is the light and there will never be any more deaths, sorrow, pain or even night for the former things are passed away. There to sit down with Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and all the redeemed from the earth. What a wonderful reunion that will be in a day without an end.

I sincerely hope that each reader of this article may feel the great reward beyond the grave and press on strongly toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.

(Matt. 7:13-14) "Enter ye in at the strait gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way, that leadeth to destruction, and many there be which go in thereto: Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and few there be that find it."

What is going to become of those that do not find it? Why they will be thrown into that lake that burneth with fire and brimstone which is the second death, and the smoke of their torment shall ascend up for ever and ever. How sad an ending, to be in such a torment with the fearful, unbelieving, abominable, murderers, whoremongers, sorcerers, idolators and all liars. I am sure no one would want to be in this dreadful place. Choose today which you will receive, for we have no promise of the morrow. Jesus said, "Come unto me ye that labour

are heavy laden and I will give you rest." For without Him we are without the most peaceful rest that can be obtained.

Let us try harder each day that we live to reach that holy city, the New Jerusalem, to have a better dwelling place for ever and ever after this sinful world has passed away. There to drink water clear as crystal, proceeding out of the throne of God and of the Lamb and to eat of the tree of life..

(Rev. 22:12) "And, behold, I come quickly; and my reward is with me, to give every man according as his work shall be." And again in Rev. 22:7, "Behold, I come quickly: blessed is he that keepeth the sayings of the prophecy of this book."

OBITUARY

ALLEN B. EBERLY

Elder Allen Balsbaugh Eberly, son of Marvin and the late Elsie Eberly, was born on August 19, 1932, in Lebanon, Pennsylvania and departed this life, November 5, 1993, in Ephrata, Pennsylvania, at the age of 61 years 2 months and 17 days.

On October 25, 1952, he was united in marriage to Martha Stauffer of Ephrata. The Lord blessed them with six children: Jim and Rick, Terre Hill, Pennsylvania, Roy, New Holland, Pennsylvania, Lori Mowen, Ephrata, Pennsylvania, Darla and Krista at home.

He was baptized at the age of fourteen, and became a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church at Lititz. He was installed in the ministry March 14, 1961, and was ordained into the Eldership, June 5, 1972, at Lititz, where he served faithfully. He was greatly concerned that the Church would remain faithful to the teachings of Christ.

He is also survived by two foster children, eight grandchildren and three brothers: Amos, Mark and Paul. He was preceded in death by his mother, Elsie, and a brother, Luke.

Funeral services were conducted November 9, 1993 at the Lititz Dunkard Brethren Church by Elder Rudy Shaffer and Elder Dean St. John.

The family wishes to thank each of you who have remembered us with prayers, cards and flowers. May God bless you all.

He is greatly missed by his wife and family.

NEWS ITEMS**1994 GENERAL CONFERENCE****June 4-8, 1994**

The Lord willing, General Conference will be held at the Memorial Holiness Camp, located on Jay Road, West Milton, Ohio, June 4 through June 8, 1994. More information will be given later.

Please send reservations to:

Bro. Don Hostetler

8383 Arcanum-Bears Mill Rd.

Greenville, OH 45331

Telephone: (513) 548-7382

Brother Paul Stump

Arrangements Committee

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Spring Revival, April 17 through 24.

Our Evangelist will be Brother Robert Lehigh of Spring Grove, Pennsylvania.

The Lovefeast will be April 23 at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. Other evening services will be at 7:30 p.m.

We welcome you to these services.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing the Grandview Congregation will have their Spring Lovefeast, April 30 to May 1, 1994. Weekend Services will begin Saturday at 11:00 a.m., with Lovefeast that evening at 6:00 p.m.

We invite all who can, to come and worship with us.

Sister Sandra Meyers, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

"Except the Lord build the house, they labour in vain that build it: except the Lord keep the city, the watchman waketh but in vain." Psalm 127:1.

Our feeble efforts are nothing if we do not consider the Will of the Lord. So, we have considered His Will in installing Brother David Rice as Minister and Brother Barry Boone as Deacon.

"Do good, O Lord, unto those that be good, and to them that are upright in their hearts." Psalm 125:4.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The 1993 Swallow Falls revival is now history. Bro. Paul Hartz preached eleven Gospel filled sermons. We had fair to good attendance throughout the meeting which ended with communion services on Saturday evening with twenty-three surrounding the Lord's tables with Bro. Paul Hartz and our Elder Virgil Leatherman in charge.

No new converts were added to the church but we pray that much good was done that will yet bring fruits for eternity.

A nice crowd attended Sunday services which was followed by a fellowship meal on the grounds. We thank all our visitors for coming and enjoyed having them, and invite them and others to come again when possible. We are small in number and appreciate both familiar and strange faces that join us in our services any time, also we covet the prayers of the faithful wherever you are.

Since our last report Sister Marie Sines has transferred her letter of membership from Hart, Michigan to the Swallow Falls Congregation. Sister Marie will be a great help to us here.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

As we go forth into the New Year and reflect over the Old Year we are made to rejoice. Many changes have taken place. Kenny Bare, husband of Sis. Sally Bare decided to follow Jesus and was baptized. Sisters Tena Priest and Mary Alice Shaffer were received into our Congregation. Bro. Duane Priest was also received into the Congregation on former baptism. We are grateful for each of these young ones. May we go forth striving to serve the Lord in unity and thanksgiving.

The Lord willing the Waynesboro Congregation plans our Lovefeast Services on Sunday, May 1, 1994. We extend a cordial invitation to all (ministers also) to come worship with us this day.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

THANK YOU

Dear Brothers and Sisters:

I would like to express my thanks for the letters, cards, telephone calls and floral gifts during my stay at the hospital and since I'm home. They have meant so much to me.

I'm slowly gaining my strength back. May God bless each and every one for your thoughtfulness during this time.

In Christian love,
Sister Paulette Johnson

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXII

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NO. 8

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE MENDER OF BROKEN HEARTS

Alone I lay upon my bed,
While painful scenes rush through my head.
Hasty words, thrust with the force of a dart,
Wounding the soul, before piercing my heart.

Clutching my wound, I fell to my knees,
Straight to the Physician I went with my pleas,
With a skill beyond knowledge, the damage He healed,
With medicine of love, the cut was now sealed.

Strong hands steady, His technique so precise,
Not a scar remained from that terrible slice.
I can forgive! What knowledge so sweet,
A word that is often so hard to repeat.

Heartaches come, often for this reason,
To bend our knees to prayer, for a season,
And to give the doctor of our soul,
The chance to heal, and make us whole.

Sister Sharon McGhan
R#1, 100th Ave.
Hart, MI 49420

THE FORK IN THE ROAD

When traveling in an unfamiliar country, it is easy to take the wrong road, when there is a fork in the road. We may have to ponder awhile so we might reach our intended destination. Each road at a fork may deceptively look like it goes nearly the same way, but somewhere beyond the fork, there is a divergence. They end up at different destinations.

If we do not recognize which is the correct road to take at the fork, we may waste valuable time and effort in going on the wrong road. We may go quite a distance before we recognize our error. Sometimes we are so sure that we have chosen correctly that we persist in going that way although it is the wrong way. Sometimes we go so far that we find it difficult to turn around. We may move along the wrong road at a high rate of speed and with great confidence, but nevertheless it will be in vain. We can not reach our destination no matter how fast or how confidently we move in the wrong way.

We may find several forks along the road we are traveling. This calls for many decisions. Either from personal experience or from the example of others, who have travelled this way before, we may know exactly where the two roads lead. Even though we know the destinations of the two roads we may still deliberately choose to go the wrong way. It is human nature to dare to go the wrong way on purpose. The world exalts daredevils. So, some will deliberately do wrong just to gain notoriety.

Going down the wrong road deliberately describes many people, Spiritually. Through home training, experiences and teaching, we all come to a time and place where we are confronted with a choice

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that we all need to make concerning the direction of our Spiritual lives. Will we choose to go to the right or the left? Will we choose to follow the Good Shepherd or the Enemy of our souls? Will we follow the precepts of the Word of God or the evil surmisings of the World? Will we identify ourselves with the Church of God or will we be identified with every evil belief and practice around us? When we come to these forks in the road, we must decide. We can not be neutral. A choice is demanded. We will be judged according to the choices we make.

In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus spoke of the broad way and the narrow way. He spoke of people making the choice of following the attractive way of the world or of deliberately choosing the way of the cross. The broad way is very attractive because it is the way that appeals to the human nature. It is the way of worldly beauty, fun, and self-indulgence. The narrow way does not appeal to the flesh. It is a strait, Spiritual way. It requires an effort to enter and to follow. The broad way does not require even a conscious decision to follow. It is just there, and in the absence of any definite decision to choose the narrow way, the broad way is followed automatically.

The destinations of these two ways are very different. The broad way leads to destruction and eternal sorrow. The narrow way, though unattractive to the human desire, will lead to eternal bliss and joy.

Amongst the parallels between the two ways and the fork in the road is the idea of a necessary choice. Each must choose which way to follow, whether the broad or narrow way. Many make the choice by default, by actually not making a positive choice. Many who know what the result of their choice will be, will not choose aright. Some sit under the sound of the Gospel from little up, yet refuse to heed the call of the Spirit of God. They have heard of the ends of the roads that lie before them.

The fork in the road conveys the idea of decisions made on a daily basis. The choosing of the broad way or the narrow way shows a choice of a lifestyle, a pattern of beliefs, and a relationship with God and His people. The choosing of the road to follow at a fork in the road shows a daily choice. It speaks of applying the beliefs that come with the choice of a way to the daily decisions that make up a lifestyle. The fork in the road will in the end determine which destination will be reached. A Spiritual life is not just one great decision, but is made up of many small, daily decisions that build up to a life, lived to either please or sadden God.

Even if you have chosen the way you wish to travel, you find every day there are forks that appear in the road, that demand decisions. Those decisions are going to be very important although they do not seem to be major decisions at that time. Yet these small, seemingly inconsequential decisions are the ones that will determine your life's course.

Have you chosen the narrow way? Are you making the correct choices at the forks in the road?

OH, HOW GREAT IS THY GOODNESS!

"Oh how great is thy goodness, which thou hast laid up for them that fear thee; which thou hast wrought for them that trust in thee before the sons of men!" Psalm 31:19.

The exclamation is well founded. David speaks of the grounds of God's goodness, and in order to impress his memory he speaks of it under the distinction of future and present, performed and promised, concealed and displayed. How great is the goodness which is LAID UP for them that fear and trust the Lord! This is the most important thing. This surpasses all understanding on our part, "Eye hath not seen nor ear heard, nor have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him!" Eternity will be given us to experience the glory that shall be revealed, and yet, "how great is the goodness he has WROUGHT for them!" Though we have more in hope, we have much at hand. It is said the Jews did eat angel's food, because the manna on which they fed was not of human instrumentality, but created immediately in the clouds and sent down from heaven. But,

"Never did angels taste above
Redeeming grace and dying love."

Oh! how great is His goodness! Jesus, the elder brother of the family, is ours. All creation is ours. Redemption is all our own: redemption bought by an infinite price; a righteousness which is of God, renovating our souls by the operation of almighty Grace. He guides us through all the intricacies of the wilderness, and in gracious provision for our daily needs by a peculiar providence. Oh! what rewards will those that fear Him hereafter find! Oh! what exquisite delight will belong to them, and them only! As yet it is not day with us, but it is the dawn, and the one will infallibly bring on the other. As yet the good work is not finished in us, but it is begun. An infinite good is being wrought out in us, as well as for us. "We are confident," says the apostle, "of this very thing, that He which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

TOUCHING THE LIVES OF OTHERS

Matthew 5:16, "Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works, and glorify your Father which is in heaven."

Galatians 6:10, "As we have therefore opportunity, let us do good unto all men, especially unto them who are of the household of faith."

Recently, while doing business in various establishments that we frequent, we engaged in conversation that went beyond the usual formal talk usually engaged in when doing business. While we are not as aggressive in sharing our faith as some individuals, we have observed, we would hope, that we have let our light so shine before men that our Father in Heaven may have been glorified.

There are those who say that plain dress turns individuals off and there seems to be some sentiment among many plain groups that some traditional plain practices should be discarded in order to promote growth and good relationships among others. There is no denying that not everyone that dresses plain leaves a good testimony. We have met a few individuals who dress plain but do not belong to an established group. This seems to be saying that there is no plain group that is spiritual enough to be a part of. We, personally, feel this is a poor testimony. We met one individual who dresses plainer than we do who said he is a Lutheran. He made it plain that his manner of dress was not a spiritual conviction but that he had cultural learnings toward the simple life. Yet, we have felt that wearing plain garb has left a testimony to others with whom we have come into contact.

We believe that when we touch the lives of others we should meet them with a smile, not a scowl. While we may not appreciate the appearance of those we come into contact with, we should never have a "holier than thou" attitude. A true Christian testimony is allowing the Holy Spirit to shine through us and giving the Lord Jesus Christ all the honor, glory and praise. Being able to converse about the professional sports world, latest movies, videos and/or television programs, or latest dance steps does not bring the Lord Jesus Christ any glory and we believe leaves a poor testimony, even if it does leave you out of a lot of modern day conversation even among professed Christians! There is no doubt that those who take part in such things are "winning more souls" than those who refuse to take part. But we must remember that the cults and false teachers are "winning souls" in great numbers also.

The plain church was almost always a leader in helping others in times of disaster. The fact that the once plain liberals have substituted good works for the spreading of the true Gospel should not prevent us from doing good unto all men as we have opportunity. We do not believe it is wrong to use wisdom. Today it may be dangerous to stop and help someone who is having vehicle trouble along the road. However, if we allow fear to keep us from doing good in all instances the time may come when we will refuse to share the Gospel because of fear of our lives. We believe this is the "fearful" who are spoken of in Revelation 21:8, who will have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone. Very few, if any of us want to die, if we are in

good health, if we want to be completely honest. Yet we must realize that there is something far greater than death to fear. Our busy lives also leave us very little time to help others in need. Again, we realize we must use good judgement. We do not believe God expects us to put our jobs into jeopardy by taking too much time off from work. Besides, this would not leave a good testimony in the workplace. If you are retired or own your own business you do not have this problem. However, retired individuals often have health problems and even those who own their own business must maintain good work habits in order to stay in business. The bottom line is we must never allow financial gain to be more important than helping others.

Many seem to forget that we are to do good "especially unto them who are of the household of faith." There should be a special bond between those who worship together as a gathering. This is one of the reasons we, personally, feel church membership is important. We realize that in one sense all blood bought individuals are "of the household of faith." We do not believe it our task to judge who will enter the portals of Heaven and who will be refused. Yet we believe we are correct in holding to close communion. Our denomination should truly be a family of God. Unfortunately, family feuds have taken place ever since Cain slew Abel. The household of faith has not been exempt from this. But it does not bring glory to God and ruins our testimony.

As we touch the lives of others let us desire to bring glory to our Savior and Lord. The Lord Jesus Christ wishes to touch your life if you have never given Him the opportunity. When the Holy Spirit calls do not harden your heart.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

April 15, 1934
ISAIAH 53
Josie Kinter

Here in this chapter we have a description of the life and suffering of our Savior.

He grew up as a tender plant or as a root out of a dry ground. He was despised and rejected by all men. He was a man of sorrows acquainted with grief, and we hid as it were our faces from His; he was despised and we esteemed Him not.

He bore our griefs and carried our sorrows, was wounded for our transgressions, bruised for our sins, with His stripes we are healed, but in the face of all this we all have strayed away from the fold in one way or another.

Even though we rejected Him and was the cause of all his suffering and sorrow He was willing to go through the valley and shadow of death and rise again the third day that we through Him might have eternal life.

All this was done because of his great love for humanity. Are we willing to love those who do not love us, as we do those who do love us? I am afraid that some of us will have to answer no, but Jesus was not that way. His love was the same for all.

Jesus made the atonement for all and the disobedience of man was the cause of this sacrifice being made; and it required the innocent blood of the Lamb of God, the supreme sacrifice to remove the sins of the world.

God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whosoever believeth on Him should not perish but have everlasting life. This does not apply to only a select few, but to the entire world.

With His stripes we are healed. After that supper in the upper room He took His disciples and went out, crossed the brook Kedron and to the garden of Gethsamane. There He told His disciples to wait while He went on a little farther to pray. He then took with Him Peter, James and John and went a little farther, a stone's throw, there He knelt down and prayed to the Father that if it were possible that this bitter cup of trial and suffering might be removed from Him but he was submissive and said, "Not My Will, but Thine be done."

During this time this terrible strain was becoming greater and greater, and can you imagine the feeling of sadness pictured in His face when He came back and found them asleep? More especially after Peter had but a short time before made such a strong assertion that he would not forsake Him.

Jesus now told them to watch and pray that they enter not into temptation, and went again to pray for the removing of this bitter cut, but He was submissive, saying if it was not possible "Thy will be done."

He came back the second time and found them asleep again. He left them and went and prayed the third time saying the same words, "Thy will be done."

While He was praying His agony was so great that His sweat became as it were great drops of blood, running down over His face and dropping on the ground. See this wonderful picture of the Savior of the world as He prayed all alone practically forgotten by all, even His disciples could not stay awake and watch with Him. When He came back the third time He told them to sleep on and take their rest for the Son of Man was betrayed into the hands of sinners.

We now have a different picture, here comes Judas with a band of soldiers to take Jesus. He had already told them to take the one that he should kiss, so he approached the Savior and said, "Hail Master," and kissed Him. This was not a kiss prompted by that love

that Jesus had been instilling into the hearts of His followers, but it was a kiss of betrayal prompted by the love of money for he had sold His beloved Master for thirty pieces of silver.

After His betrayal he was taken before the rulers where He was falsely accused and convicted. But through His obedience and innocence He took all of their abuse and said never a word.

I do not believe when the robe and crown were put upon Him that the crown was put on with care, but rather pressed down so that all the thorns that came in contact with His flesh would pierce it until the blood flowed from the wounds, "He was wounded for our transgressions."

"With His stripes we are healed." After Pilate had scourged Him he delivered Him unto the Jews. After all the great suffering He had already passed through He was led outside the city walls and away to a place called "Golgotha" meaning a place of the skull and here He was nailed to that old rugged cross we so often sing about.

Think of all the pain he must endure as the nails are driven through His hands and His feet, then the cross is raised and maybe dropped none too carefully into the hole in the ground that had been prepared to receive it. Think of the suffering He still must have endured until death relieved Him.

I believe that God (like we when our children suffer) was suffering at this time with Jesus and it pained Him so greatly that He may have turned away for a moment as we sometimes do. Jesus realized He was alone and cried, "My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me."

What great trials He had to endure that we through Him might have eternal life. Jesus was a wonderful friend - we can have no other that will stay as close to us if we will only live close to Him and renounce everything in our daily life that would be a hindrance to us.

Jesus was a man of sorrow, we have no record of Him as ever laughing, but scriptures tell us that He wept.

"But he was wounded for our transgressions, he was bruised for our iniquities: the chastisement of our peace was upon him, and with his stripes we are healed. All we like sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way; and the Lord hath laid on him the iniquity of us all."

Let us take a lesson from those disciples whom Jesus had taken with Him as witnesses and be careful that we do not fall asleep when we should be awake and witnessing for Christ.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

God's Psychology

After a recent article on SECULAR Psychology, a dear brother approached me and asked me what other options might be open to us as Christians to help us handle emotional challenges that we might experience. This opened up an opportunity to write to you about Christian counselling and God's psychology.

The person is rare, indeed, who does not occasionally have an emotional conflict of some kind. Sometimes embarrassment follows these incidents because we, as Christians, are just not to have problems! Of course, that does not come from God's Word. It just comes from unrealistic resolve. We, as Christians, must take steps toward learning Spirit Control.

The Bible often calls this Spirit (or self) control, TEMPERANCE. This is a self-restraint and this is the Christian power that restrains and helps to control our feelings, emotions and sometimes our health.

Rather than living by uninhibited expression of any and all impulses, we must learn to crucify the flesh and allow the Spirit control to dictate our feelings and actions.

Self-control is one of the qualities listed by Peter as essential in living a quality, Godly life. This ability to exercise self-control comes as a gift of God's grace. It is divine in origin.

Fear is an emotion that is devastating in many lives and it saps the vitality from many areas of life. Lives are totally rearranged to accommodate some unreasoned fears and it drives many into seclusion from the real world. Of course, some fears are healthy and necessary for an orderly life. Any fear that separates us from real danger can be productive. Other fears are unhealthy. These sometimes spring from a childhood experience or trauma. They become an ingrained part of the personality and are difficult to overcome. The Psychology BOOK says that "God has not given us the spirit of fear, but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind." (II Tim. 1:7) God's grace can transform one whose personality is dominated by unreasoning fear into a whole person, motivated by God's power and love.

Some fears are caused by deep anxiety, becoming generalized once the dreaded event is past. The story of Jairus and his daughter is an example of this. Christ's first words to him were, "fear not." Christ's alternative was to practice faith in the Almighty God. He can heal.

Other fears are caused by guilt feelings. This can sometimes prompt abnormal behavior. When Jesus called Peter to discipleship, Peter was overcome by a sense of sinfulness. The Lord was to teach him that he no longer needed to fear because he was now IN Christ Jesus. The best way to rid one's life of guilt feelings is to gain forgiveness for the guilt.

Christ gave John three reasons not to fear. First, He was the first and the last; He preceded the first fear and will reign long after the final fear vanishes. His perspective shows all things coming to His appointed end. Secondly, Christ has conquered the unknown regions of life and death. Finally, Christ holds the authority for the future and since it is in His hands, we need not fear.

The Bible can help greatly in helping a person to overcome depression as well as anxiety. The person is rare indeed who does not experience periods of depression. Feelings of worthlessness, dejection, and despondency can afflict all people and can stem from various sources. Biological malfunctions, tragic past experiences, a negative self-concept and childhood mistreatment are among the many factors that can contribute to a feeling of depression. Guilt also causes depression and this seems, at times, impossible to overcome.

We can not underestimate the severity of guilt-induced depression. The Psalmist graphically related his personal experiences, saying, "When I kept silent about my sin, by body wasted away through my groaning all day long." The Bible shows us that the alternative to guilty depression is a realization of sin and a confident acceptance of God's forgiveness. David said, "Thou didst surround me with songs of deliverance." That is an important part of God's psychology. Forgiveness! Forgiveness of self, of others.

Confession of sin must be accompanied by consistent efforts to live according to God's Word. We can't rightly expect relief from depression as long as we are rebelling against God.

Cain's depression was caused by disobedience and God promised relief from a "long face" if Cain would steadfastly resist sin.

Sometimes, our depression intensifies when we realize our sin and try to punish ourselves for it. Rather than leading to relief, such action deepens the despondency. We need not punish ourselves. God has paid for our sin and our confidence can be fully in Him.

Unforgiven sin frequently causes depression. Rather than hiding that sin or treating the symptom rather than the source, the victorious Christian humbly repents and lives confident of his forgiveness.

There are times we need to have Christian counselling and someone to share our innermost thoughts with. We should each one be open to sharing one another's burdens and allowing others to bare themselves when the need arises. We need to be considerate and longsuffering when someone is experiencing these symptoms. We need to all develop a positive God-centered self concept...meditate more on scriptures and the good things of God and life. We need to have a constant renewal of our mind. We need to see each day as a new beginning and an opportunity for God to reach out to us and comfort us and bathe us in His love. Think often of His truths and His promises and let these new thoughts glorify Him and heal us.

Brother Len Wertz

THE CHURCH OF OUR LORD JESUS

The Church of Our Lord Jesus
Was purchased with His blood
God put a rainbow in the sky
Proof: There will never be another flood.

God's word requires certain rules
To be OBEYED, and then when,
All His prophecies are FULFILLED,
This SINFUL WORLD SHALL COME TO AN END.

We must believe that before CONVERSION
We were SINNERS far from God,
We must REPENT and be BAPTIZED
So states the Holy Word of God.

John baptized Jesus IN the River Jordan
To show HIS CHURCH "THE WAY".
He was IMMERSED THREE TIMES by John
And that's the way His CHURCH BAPTIZES TODAY.

When BURIED in the water
Your sins are WASHED away,
You become a SIN FREED CREATURE
God will help you LIVE IT EVERY DAY.

The Bible is like NUGGETS OF GOLD
PRECIOUS to the child of God,
I wish to give the following
As the WAY that we should TROD.

A great help to a CHRISTIAN
Is to live a life of PRAYER,
For, when we choose to pray
We know the Lord is there.

FAITH, taking God at HIS WORD,
FULLY BELIEVING that Jesus is His Son,
By OBEYING what they TEACH us
We will have the "VICTORY", WON.

CHRISTIANS must FORGIVE one another
If we REFUSE that, to do
The HEAVENLY FATHER says that
"NEITHER will I FORGIVE YOU."

We are STEWARTS of God's BLESSINGS
To ALL He gives out TALENTS,
He EXPECTS, from them, an INCREASE
THEREFORE, we dare not be INDOLENT.

We are to be good SAMARITANS
And DO FOR OTHERS what we can,
We're not to PASS BY ON THE OTHER SIDE
We are to HELP OUR FELLOW MAN.

FIVE TIMES in the Holy scriptures
We are to greet by KISS, ONE ANOTHER,
SISTERS GREET each sister
BROTHER GREET each brother.

The PROMISES OF GOD will not FAIL
We have a HOPE that the time will come,
When all His FAITHFUL FOLLOWERS
Will be GARNERED into that HEAVENLY HOME.

God's Word DEFINITELY STATES that
We have a DUTY TO DO,
"DO UNTO OTHERS AS YOU WOULD HAVE
OTHERS DO UNTO YOU."

We must be HONEST in our DEALINGS
THREE gospel WRITERS agree to a NAME
"FOR WHAT MEASURE YOU METE
IT SHALL BE MEASURED TO YOU AGAIN."

God CREATED the man Adam
And then He CREATED his wife,
WHOM GOD hath JOINED TOGETHER
Are to REMAIN so for LIFE.

CHARITY is defined as CHRISTIAN LOVE
CHRISTIANS are to LOVE ONE ANOTHER
We also are to LOVE JESUS whose blood
WAS SHED for each SISTER and BROTHER.

I WROTE this poem for a REASON
To KEEP MY MIND CENTERED ON GOD'S WORD.
I truly LOVE OUR BROTHERHOOD
And I truly LOVE MY LORD

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

FILL YOUR BASKETS

Eva Doerksen

One Sunday afternoon the native pastor of the Kwoi church announced that he would like as many women as were able, to help him carry home his corn from the farm the next day. The people of Nigeria don't have wagons or trucks or horses to carry their grain. The people carry it in big loads on their heads. And sometimes their farms are more than ten miles from where they live. So sometimes the people help each other to carry the grain home during harvest time.

The next day out came the women and girls with their baskets. Little baskets, big baskets, old ones and new. Just every kind of baskets was seen that day. They walked along the narrow path, a merry group, singing and talking as they walked to the pastor's farm about seven miles away. Some of the smaller girls giggled as they tried to remember the choruses they had learned in Sunday School.

Upon reaching the farm they loaded their baskets. Some took only a little corn; some filled the bottoms of the baskets only. Others filled theirs to the very brim. One woman took so much that her strength failed before she got home, and her son had to come and carry it the rest of the way.

"Why," scolded some of her friends, "why did you take such a big load? Why did you fill your basket? You won't get paid for doing this!" The woman only smiled wearily, as she answered:

"I did it because I love the pastor and the Lord Jesus so much!"

As each one arrived at the pastor's compound with her load, she was told to sit down and wait. Finally, as the sun was setting, the last basket was set down. Each woman sat with one in front of her, some full, some nearly empty. Then the pastor came out, and smilingly thanked each one for all the help they had given him. Then he added: "Now each one of you keep what you have brought!"

Oh, what excitement! None of the women had much grain left in their granaries, and to receive a gift like this while waiting for their harvest! It was almost too much. Some leaped for joy. Others loudly and lovingly thanked their pastor. Others drew back very much ashamed.

"If I had only known I would have filled my basket," said one.

"If I had known I would have taken a bigger basket," said another.

"Why didn't you tell us it was for us," said some selfishly, "and we would have taken some of our relatives along to help!"

While some went home joyfully, others went home rather ashamed and sad, trying to hide the little bit they had brought in. They realized their own selfishness and laziness had meant they only had a little corn.

Some of the women hadn't gone at all. They had said they had enough to do without helping someone else. But when they heard what had happened they were at the pastor's house very early the next morning, and offered to carry his corn in for him! The pastor smiled at them and said quietly:

"You are too late. The grain was brought in yesterday!"

The next Sunday, when everyone was in church, the pastor spoke of what had happened. "Many of you are going to be disappointed at God's harvest day," he said earnestly. "Why not start working for Him now, fill your baskets with service for Him. Bring Him a harvest of souls, and He will repay you with far more than I did this week."

What kind of a basket are you using for Jesus? Bring the best that you have and work hard for Him, and some day he will make you happy in His home in Heaven.

Selected from BLACK GEMS FOR HIS
CROWN by Sister Mildred Skiles

MARRIAGE SKILES - SHAFFER

Sis. Mary Alice Skiles, daughter of Bro. David and Sis. Mildred Skiles of Cuba, New Mexico was married to Bro. Dean Shaffer, son of Bro. Frank and Sis. Janet Shaffer of Greencastle, Pennsylvania on March 1, 1994 at Torreon Navajo Mission.

Their address is 699 Wetmore Road, Apt. N, Columbus, OH 43214.

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGES

The new address of Bro. Frank E. Shaffer is 13055 Grant Shook Road, Greencastle, PA 17225. His telephone number is the same.

Add the following ministers:

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Dennis Myers, 2395 268th Lane, Adel, IA 50003. Telephone number is 515-993-5357.

NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to thank all of you for remembering us on our 50th Anniversary by sending us cards and gifts and those that came to help us celebrate.

We pray that each of us will be acceptable in His sight that we all might be there to take part in that Great Celebration which is to come.

In Christian love,
Brother Pete and Sister Lenora Lorenz

• • • • •

The refreshing dew of God's comfort and strength comes only in the quiet of secret devotion.

• • • • •

When God buries our sins in the bottom of the sea, He puts up a sign, "NO FISHING".

• • • • •

Life with Christ is an endless hope. Without Him, it is a hopeless end.

• • • • •

Man had no part in bringing forth our Redeemer - Women had no part in His crucifixion.

• • • • •

**ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR MAY 1994**

May 1 - Philip and the Ethiopian Eunuch - Acts 8:26-40.

1. How was Philip prompted to go meet with the Eunuch?
2. Study Philip's method of presenting the Gospel message.

May 8 - MOTHER'S DAY - Judges 5:1-31.

1. What result of Deborah's endeavors caused her to declare herself a mother in Israel?
2. What are the lasting qualities of a Godly Mother?

May 15 - Conversion of Saul - Acts 9:1-31.

1. To what cause was Saul committed prior to conversion?
2. What changes in commitment resulted from his conversion?

May 22 - Peter Heals the Sick; Raises the Dead - Acts 9:32-43.

1. List the miracles that Peter performed.
2. How did these miracles enhance the work of the Lord?

May 29 - Peter's Vision - Acts 10:1-18.

1. What lesson was the Lord trying to teach Peter?
2. What applications can we make in our lives?

**YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS
FOR MAY 1994**

May 1 - Delivered from Evil - Gal. 1:3-5, Gen. 13:5-13, Gen. 19:12-30

1. Why is God interested in delivering us from evil?
2. List some ways God helps keep us from the evil around us.

May 8 - God's Miracle Mother - Heb. 11:11-16, Gen. 21:1-8.

1. What motherly qualities do you see in Sarah?
2. What are some qualities of a faithful mother?

May 15 - God Requires Sacrifice - Heb. 13:15-16, Gen. 22:1-19.

1. What value do sacrifices have in our lives?
2. What is the ultimate sacrifice God seeks from us?

May 22 - God's Choice - Ps. 25:12, Gen. 24:1-67.

1. Think about the dangers of choosing anything less than God's choice.
2. How can we find and know God's choice for our life?

May 29 - God's People Israel - Gal. 3:28-29, Gen. 25:19-28, 28:10-15, Gen. 32:28, 35:22-26.

1. Why did God choose the Jews as His chosen people?
2. What is God looking for from those He chooses?

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXII

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NO. 9

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE HEALING LEAVES

Go forth on wings of faith and pray'r,
Ye pages, bright with love;
Though mute, the joyful tidings bear—
Salvation from above.

Go, tell the sinful, careless soul
The warning God has giv'n;
Go, make the wounded spirit whole,
With healing balm from heav'n,

Go to the rude, the dark, the poor,
That live estrang'd from God:—
Bid them the pearl of price secure,
Bought with a Saviour's blood.

O Jesus, friend of dying men,
Thy presence we implore;
Without thy blessing all is vain;
Be with us evermore.

-Hastings

GATHERED TO BE SCATTERED

During the early months, the Church at Jerusalem was composed mostly of the Jews who had come to worship as they had been taught by the Law at the feasts of Passover and Pentecost. They had come from many lands and spoke several languages. These sincere Jews made an effort to fulfill the symbolism of the Law. These symbols helped them to remember what God had said to them. They came to keep these feasts; they ended up finding much more than the Law could offer them.

At that particular Passover Jesus had been offered as the perfect Lamb of God. He was the forever offering, so they would never again have to make a dead sacrifice to be in God's favor. Now, they would be required to make a living sacrifice of themselves. Some of these people may have witnessed the crucifixion; heard of His resurrection; or saw Him before His ascension.

At Pentecost they heard the gospel preached in their own language. Many believed the words of Peter concerning the resurrected Jesus. They realized that Jesus was the One, the prophets had spoken of, centuries before. He was the One they had read of in their Scriptures. There were three thousand who responded to the Spirit's call and were baptized at that time. Within a short time another five thousand responded also. The Church suddenly had grown to over eight thousand. These believers continued to stay in Jerusalem. They were being taught and they enjoyed a sweet fellowship together.

Except for the leaders, they did not have much trouble with the authorities. Peter and John had been imprisoned and beaten, but the others had been able to worship near the Temple. After Stephen

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was martyred and Saul had begun to wreak havoc upon the Church, these members began to be persecuted. This persecution caused them to move from Jerusalem to other towns and cities or back to their hometowns.

By being forced to leave Jerusalem, they felt the sting of hardship and the pain of separation from those of like precious faith. This was not easy, but God, through this persecution, accomplished His great purpose. His gospel was being preached in other places. All the world did not live at Jerusalem, although it was a major city. The gospel needed to be shared with those in their hometowns and in the country in between. This led to a larger and more diverse Church. About all had been accomplished at Jerusalem that could be at this time. It was time to move on to other places and to other people. Jesus had said just before His ascension that they should first proclaim the gospel at Jerusalem, then to the surrounding towns of Judea, then to go to Samaria and eventually to the uttermost parts of the world. They were now fulfilling His command, although it took persecution to get them to move out.

The early Christians were not so very different from Christians today. We enjoy being in a large group, where there is sweet fellowship, where there are leaders who are well and widely known for their service for the Church. It is a great inspiration to see a congregation grow and eventually become strong. Its success often draws more to the congregation, building up its numbers. Unfortunately, troubles can grow up in that congregation along with the numbers. As the Jerusalem Church was gathered from many places and had a season to grow to be taught and prepared to share the gospel, so congregations need to face the need of sharing the gospel at some distance that others may be converted and taught. Before the problems of size come to the forefront there needs to be a dividing and going forth to new fields.

The Church at Jerusalem did not move out until persecuted, hopefully, large congregations, today, will not need to be persecuted to spread the gospel. When congregations become too large, problems can develop because God-given talent can not be used. Members of a large congregation may feel unneeded, so they do not feel a compulsion to be regular in attendance. They feel they will not be missed if not present. Fellowship can begin to be among various cliques; a party spirit can arise causing divisions and eventually rupture with in the body. These and other problems can come when there is no foresight to develop a witness to an area at some distance from the home meeting house.

The scattering will cause a new strength in the congregation as it gives birth to daughter congregations or builds up weaker, smaller congregations. God builds up congregations and gives them a time to grow and develop, then He expects them to scatter and to share the gospel.

God gathered the early believers at Jerusalem that they might be converted and taught, then He scattered them to the uttermost parts of the earth. How is He working in your congregation?

FRIENDSHIP, FELLOWSHIP AND FULFILLMENT

II Corinthians 8:4-5, "Praying us with much intreaty that we would receive the gift, and take upon us the fellowship of the ministering to the saints. And this they did, not as we hoped, but first gave their own selves to the Lord, and unto us by the will of God."

Most individuals are gregarious by nature. While some desire to have time alone, most individuals also have the desire to be in the company of others. This God given inclination is brought to completion on three levels.

The first level is friendship. There are those whom we recognize by name but never get to know very well. This can not, in reality, be called friendship. There are also those whom we know through a working relationship. Most of these would fall under the heading of acquaintance rather than friendship. True friendship involves knowing someone well enough to share your most intimate thoughts with them. If we consider someone a true friend we will also be willing to listen to their advice and counsel. It is possible that a friend may not share our spiritual beliefs. We would caution young people to be very careful in the area of friendship. A friend will influence your thoughts and actions. This can also be true of adults. While the Lord Jesus Christ gave us an example to follow which teaches that we should be willing to associate with those who are unsaved we should be wary of making close friends of these individuals.

The second level is fellowship. We may feel a degree of fellowship with all of those who have accepted Jesus Christ as their Lord and Savior. But there is a deeper fellowship with those of like mind. As Dunkard Brethren we may feel fellowship with those who wear plain clothing. The prayer veil is a symbol that draws us to individuals who share this scriptural conviction. Yet true fellowship goes deeper than this. True fellowship involves being willing to receive what others have to share with us. Our opening verses speak of a physical gift. But there are also spiritual gifts we can share with one another. If we have come to the place where we feel we can no longer learn from a brother or sister we should search our heart for spiritual pride. We should also never have too much pride to ask for and receive physical or monetary help if we are truly in need.

Fellowship of the saints goes beyond a local congregation. While we respect those who belong to an independent group and feel a sense of fellowship with those independent groups who follow the plain way of life, we, personally, believe there is a greater sense of true fellowship within a denominational body of believers. This does not necessarily mean that true fellowship is a reality within the heart

of each member of a denomination. A brother can greet a brother or a sister greet a sister with a holy kiss and still not have love in their heart for the individual. You can wash the feet of a fellow member and not truly love them. True fellowship involves Christian love for one another.

True friendship and fellowship can only be when we give our own selves to the Lord. This is the fulfillment of the highest level of relationship. While we must worship God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit and can not bring them down to our level, there is a sense in which we can have friendship with them. We can share our sorrows, our pain and even our sin with the Holy God and He will not forsake us but will be a true friend to us if we seek Him with an open and upright heart. To have fellowship with our God we must be in a right relationship with Him. The Bible teaches that our prayers may be hindered because of a lack of fellowship. We can even lose our salvation if we lose fellowship with our Savior.

When our relationship with God is in order we can have a relationship with others by the will of God. When we are within the divine will of God, we will desire to have the friendship, fellowship and fulfillment loving God and others brings to our heart. Giving ourselves to God allows us to give of ourselves to others. Like the Corinthian Church we will desire to share with those in need. The physical needs of the poor will be met. The spiritual needs of all will be provided for. Friendship will bring fellowship into bloom as we find our fulfillment in our Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

Brother James M. Hite
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ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE THE DAY OF THE LORD

The Word of God uses the expression "Day of the Lord" and relates this strongly to God's rule of the world and therefore, to His sovereign purpose for world history and specific events within that history. The "Day of the Lord" refers to God's special interventions into the course of world events to judge His enemies, accomplish His purpose for history and to demonstrate that He is the sovereign God of the universe.

Evidence of the significance of the "Day of the Lord" is found in reference in the scriptures and is shown in a twofold nature. First, it will be characterized by darkness and the tremendous outpouring of wrath on the world. That day will bring no divine light or blessing to

the earth. It will be the "70th week of Daniel" and will be a great judgement on sin.

The second "Day of the Lord" is characterized by the light and an outpouring of blessings of God. Jesus will rule and carry out the administration of the activities that take place on this planet. We refer to this period as the Millennium.

The twofold nature of the "Day of the Lord" in the future is interesting and often not considered. It is a day of judgement and also a day of salvation. Just as light follows darkness...so the future "Day of the Lord" will have a period of darkness and judgement followed by a period of light. This time will really demonstrate who God is and how great is His power.

Why has the expression "Day of the Lord" been used for God's divine interventions into the course of world events to judge His enemies, accomplish His purpose for history and demonstrate His sovereignty?

When God's enemy, Satan, convinced Adam to rebel against God and His rule, God's theocratic kingdom rule over the world system was lost. Because of his rebellion, Satan unsurped the rule and the world system has been under the prince and the power of air. Satan and man have been having their "day" in the world. This has been totally contrary to God's purpose for man, which is to worship and revere Him and only Him.

Several times in the past, God broke into the day of Satan and rebellion with interventions to accomplish His immediate divine purpose. He graphically reminded Satan and man that He was still in ultimate sovereign power over the earth and universe and was to give a foretaste of the ultimate reign at the end of history.

The future "Day of the Lord" will be far more significant than anything man has experienced in the past. It will show the fullness of God's power.

Will we be a part of the outpouring of God's wrath or will we be a part of the restoration of His theocratic kingdom rule? The choice is ours. The "Day of the Lord is at hand."

Bro. Len Wertz

THREE LESSONS FROM THE LIFE AND DEATH OF ACHAN

In Joshua 7, we read of Achan being judged for his sin of taking of the accursed thing during the Israeli raid on Jericho. This is a fascinating account, and has several unique points which arrest my attention.

After the mighty victory at Jericho, it appears that the Israeli Army was (sort of) "feeling their oats!" Jericho was a mighty, well-fortified city. And they (with the help of the Lord!) had just conquered it!

The next obstacle on their campaign to conquer the land of Canaan was a small city named Ai. So Joshua sent a few spies to go up and check out Ai. When they came back, they gave the report: "Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few." (Joshua 7:3)

The result was that when the three thousand men went up against Ai, they fled before the men of Ai, and thirty six Israeli soldiers were killed!

Needless to say, this got their attention! Joshua tore his clothes, fell to the earth, and sought the Lord — along with the elders of Israel. And to demonstrate their earnestness, they even put dust on their heads. In searching out the mind of God, Joshua found out that someone had sinned in the camp.

We see, from reading this chronicle, how God held all Israel accountable even though we know that ONLY ONE MAN had sinned! What does this tell us about how the sin(s) of one member of the Body of Christ affect the other members of the Body of Christ? (See I Corinthians 12.)

God went on to instruct Joshua to "destroy the accursed." This was an extremely harsh punishment! What had happened that brought all this about?

The Children of Israel had been warned about not taking anything from Jericho for themselves. According to Achan's confession, it is clear that he knew he was sinning when he took the garment, the silver, and the gold. Achan SAW, he COVETED, he TOOK. So it was a DELIBERATE, WILLFUL ACT in light of the fact that he knew better!

The results of Achan's Sin were: (1) The Israeli Army fled before the men of Ai, (2) Thirty six Israeli Soldiers died, and (3) the NAME of Israel (as a nation) was affected, negatively, in the eyes of all the enemy tribes.

The Bible says that they took Achan, and the silver and the garment and the gold, his sons and his daughters, his oxen and his asses and his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they stoned them with stones, and burned them with fire, and there they raised a great heap of stones, and the Lord turned from the fierceness of His Anger.

There are at least three lessons we can learn from this account.
1. WE CATCH A GLIMPSE OF HOW GOD LOOKS ON SIN.

It is a serious thing to fall into the hands of an angry God. This is not a trivial matter. Therefore, we need to walk "circumspectly" (or discreetly) as believers. (See Hebrews 10:31, II Corinthians 5:10-11, and Ephesians 5:15-17.)

2. WE SEE THE AWESOME RESPONSIBILITY OF FATHERS.

First, we see that fathers are responsible for the spiritual welfare of their families! Fathers need to "take charge" — being absolutely sure that each member of their families (and first of all, themselves!) are growing spiritually! This important task cannot be left to chance! The idea of the family or servants suffering the consequences for a father's sin is also introduced in this account of Achan.

Secondly, we see the importance of taking seriously the role of being a part of the Body of Christ. For example, the Bible instructs us in I Corinthians 11:30-31 that the secret sins of one member of the Body of Christ affect others in the flock. And so each member is therefore accountable to one another. Why? Because I really don't want to suffer for your sin! And you probably don't want to suffer for my sin.

3. WE GAIN A NEW APPRECIATION FOR GOD'S MARVELOUS GRACE.

Thank God, that in His love and mercy, He provided a way of escape for us — away from what we deserve. Let's not tamper with it! "I do not frustrate the grace of God." (Galatians 2:21).

God is merciful and longsuffering! He lovingly deals with us, and gently leads us into doing His will — even though we stumble and fall, and continuously make mistakes!

When Joshua confronted Achan about his sin, it was then too late for Achan to receive forgiveness. Even though Achan confessed his sin, he and all that he had were destroyed. But God, in His love and mercy, has given us the opportunity to accept Jesus as our Savior, and has also given us, who are believers, many opportunities to serve Him, even after we fail. Let us be grateful for God's marvelous grace, and be diligent about earnestly serving Him as we continue to walk in His steps.

Brother Robert Lehigh

MODESTY

Nancy Beidler

I Timothy 2:9-10, "In like manner also, that women adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety: not with braided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works." MODEST: decent, chaste, pure, reserved, quiet, meek, humble, moderately shy, not boastful, humble opinion of one's own self, not displaying body. SHAMEFACEDNESS is MODESTY which is ROOTED in the CHARACTER of PERSON: humility, shy, opposite of immodest, vain, showy, sham, bracing, rude. Not bracing or improper conduct, boastful, shy to men. MODEST in manner of speech, chaste words, reserve, orderly in dress as well as speech.

It is an OUTWARD EXPRESSION of what is in the HEART. OUR SPEECH, OUR DRESS, OUR CONDUCT are a true INDEX of what is inside, which will be evident on the outside.

A SAINTLY, GODLY heart will not dress after fashions of the world. If your clothing is MODEST and PLAIN, your heart is set to win GOD'S BLESSINGS. The sisters' wearing of HEAD VEILING and MODEST DRESS provides the most effective form of PROTECTION, repelling both DEMONS and adulterous, lustful men.

MODEST DRESS sets her apart. Separation is essential for HOLINESS. "Be ye holy, for I am holy." The material part of the tabernacle and the temple was in harmony OUTWARDLY and INWARDLY, according to God's Word. I Corinthians 3:16-17. We must be sanctified as a part of the holiness of the body. Scripture mentions the dress. Clothed in MODEST APPAREL with HEAD VEILING is a symbol of the GARMENTS of SALVATION and the PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS. You cannot afford not to DRESS MODESTLY.

The Bible teaches separation attire. Your clothing will never stop talking about you. God requires modesty that you may be clothed and that the shame of your nakedness does not appear. Revelation 3:18. Nakedness and shame must be covered. Fashions are of the world. Its purpose is to excite the attentions of onlookers. Its design is to reveal instead of conceal the body. It excites the lust of eye and the lust of the flesh.

MODEST DRESS is designed to conceal the body. MODESTY regards purity and decency. Let our ADORNING and PUTTING ON OF APPAREL be of the HIDDEN MAN OF THE HEART, guided by a MEEK and QUIET SPIRIT, which is in the sight of God of great price. I Peter 3:3-4. HIDDEN: concealed, attracting little attention. MEEK: soft and gentle. This is not a weak person, but one who is a strong individual, tamed and molded by God. MEEKNESS MEANS STRENGTH. MEEK denotes a GENTLE, MILD, SOOTHING disposition, HUMBLENESS. MEEKNESS has a deeper signification than the outward appearance, but is an inner work of God. His grace exercises so the spirit appears with humility before God.

MODEST APPAREL: the original Greek word, "KATASTOLLEY", refers to dress which consisted of two parts or layers. One part covered the body from the neck to the feet, with long sleeves. The second part from the neck to the waist makes the plain, cape dress resemble the ancient MODEST dress for Christians.

Modest and plain clothing is contained in the thought of Romans 12:2, which states that Christians are not to be conformed to the world. The Greek word carries the meaning that the outer appearance shall not be according to the fashions of the world, but be a result of an inner transformation of heart, making a distinct separation. To maintain modesty means to not simulate the world's fashions, nor

conform to the world. Charles Finney said, "It is your duty to dress so plainly to show the world that you place no sort of value to fashions, but you despise them altogether."

The plain, modest, simple garb worn by saints expresses LOYALTY to GOD'S WORD. God calls for separation at every point: Dress is one. Fashionable hairstyles, ornaments, pins, belts, ribbons, gaudy colored and big flowered material, plunging necklines, short sleeves are tricks of vanity and beguile the eye. Vain and fashionable clothes are designed to cause the eye to be directed toward the body, often accentuated by high heeled shoes, which cause the body to swing and sway rather than walking modestly. Isaiah 3:16-17. "Because the daughters of Zion are haughty and walk with stretched forth necks and wanton eyes, walking and mincing as they go, making tinkling with feet..." Bible teaches MODESTY and SEPARATION and SIMPLICITY. We know our Anabaptist forefathers are modest and separated.

UNIFORM GARB: Reminds we are called out of world, a Holy Priesthood.

UNIFORM GARB: Worn by consistent Christians professing HIS FAITH.

UNIFORM GARB: Is a powerful testimony and loyalty SYMBOL OF CHURCH.

UNIFORM GARB: Eliminates anxiety: "What should I wear?"

UNIFORM GARB: Is economical, no new styles and fashions.

UNIFORM GARB: Is a rebuke to the spirit of the world's fashions.

UNIFORM GARB: Gives more opportunities to witness and counsel.

We should TRAIN UP OUR CHILDREN while tender, in the way, we want them to walk. Dressing children like the world with their ribbons, lace and ruffles is training them for the world. Which way do you want them to go? If we train them for Christ and the ways of the Lord, then we must teach them to dress like the children of Christians.

Selected by Hazel Weaver

THE MATCHLESS JESUS

More than nineteen years ago there was born a man contrary to the laws of life. This man lived in poverty and was reared in obscurity.

He did not travel extensively. Only once did He cross the boundary of the country in which He lived; that was during His exile in childhood. He possessed neither wealth nor influence.

His relatives were inconspicuous, uninfluential, and had neither training nor education.

In infancy He startled a king. In childhood He puzzled the doctors. In manhood He ruled the course of nature, walking upon the billows as if pavements, and hushed the sea to sleep. He healed multitudes without medicine and made no charge for His service. He never wrote a book and yet all the libraries of the country could not hold the books that have been written about Him.

He never wrote a song and yet He furnished the theme for more songs than all the song writers combined. He never founded a college, but all the schools together cannot boast as having as many students. He never practiced medicine, yet He has healed more broken hearts than all the doctors, far and near.

He never marshalled an army, nor drafted a soldier, nor fired a gun, and yet no leader had more volunteers who have, under His orders, made more rebels stack guns and surrender without a shot being fired. Every seventh day the wheels of commerce cease their turning and multitudes wend their way to worshipping assemblies to pay homage and respect to Him.

The names of the past proud statesmen of Greece and Rome have come and gone, but the name of this Man abounds more and more. Though time has spread nineteen hundred years between the people of this generation and the scene of His crucifixion, yet He still lives. Herod could not kill Him, Satan could not destroy Him, and the grave could not hold Him.

He stands forth upon the highest pinnacle of heavenly glory, proclaimed of God, acknowledged by angels, adored by saints, and feared by devils, as the living personal Christ, our Lord and Saviour.

Author Unknown

Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

MOTHER'S DAY

Gentle hands that never weary of Toiling in love's vineyard sweet,
Eyes that seem forever cheery When our eyes they chance to meet,

Tender, patient, brave, devoted, This is always mother's way.
Could her worth in gold be quoted As you think of her today?

There shall never be another Quite so tender, quite so kind
As the patient little mother; Nowhere on this earth you'll find
Her affection duplicated; None so proud if you are fine.
Could her worth be overstated? Not by any words of mine.

Vain are all our tributes to her If in words alone they dwell.
We must live the praises due her; There's no other way to tell
Gentle mother that we love her. Would you say, as you recall
All her patient service of her, You've been worthy of it all?

1994 GENERAL CONFERENCE PREACHING PROGRAM

TIME	SPEAKER	SUBJECT	TEXT
Sat. P.M.	James Eberly	Stand Fast and Hold	II Thess. 2:15
Sat P.M.	Mark Andrews		
Sat. Eve.	Warren Smith	Nonconformity to the World	Rom. 12:1-2
Sun. A.M.	Sunday School for children	The Battle is the Lord's	I Sam. 17
Sun. A.M.	Rudy Shaffer	The Christian's Witness in Business Decisions	
Sun. A.M.	Edward Johnson	The Christian's Witness in Personal Appearance	
Sun. P.M.	Dennis St. John	The Christian's Witness in Response to Legislation	
Sun. P.M.	Hayes Reed	The Christian's Witness in Evangelical Vision	
Sun. Eve.	Philip Gish	To the Young People	
Mon. A.M.	Bible Study	Adults: The Troubled Heart	Psalm 55
		Children: Running from God	Jonah 1,2
Mon. A.M.	Marlin Marks	Vision Vacuum	Prov. 29:18
Mon. P.M.	Mark Cordrey		
Mon. P.M.	Galen Shelly		
Mon. Eve.	Eugene Kauffman	Nineveh?	Jonah 1:1-3
Mon. Eve.	To Be Supplied		
Tues. A.M.	Bible Study	Adults: Faith is the Victory	I John 5
		Children: The Servant Who Not Forgive	Matt. 18:23-25
Tues. A.M.	David Aungst	Going for the Gold	Rev. 21, Matt. 6:33
Tues. P.M.	Decorum Comm.	Missionary Program	
Tues. Eve.	Jacob Ness	Ambassadors	II Chron. 32:31

THE WHEATFIELD

There is something about the summers in the country. It makes even the most homebound soul desire fresh air and sunshine. It was in this setting and day a few years back that a young mother, drawn by the remarkable weather, worked in her garden in the early afternoon. Her child, just barely learning to walk, was close by in a fenced-in-yard. Mother would pause occasionally to check on him. Father was at work. It was a typical, ordinary day, but one that they would remember the rest of their lives.

It began when mother, pausing to check her little one, could not find him. She took a quick trip around the house, running in to take a look around. She ran to the telephone and called her husband. He was not far away and would come home immediately. She went out on the porch and assessed the situation. There was a small front yard; to the left of the house was the garden. To the right was the driveway and the fenced in yard, and across the road, somewhat ominously, stood forth acres of wheat, high and nearly ready to harvest. She ran to the neighbors. They called others, and it wasn't long until nearly a dozen people were searching for the little one. When father got home he saw the confusion and his wife hysterical with fear, "We have looked everywhere and he is gone," she sobbed. Father took a breath and said, "We must search that wheatfield." What followed was a concerted effort on everyone's part to find the child, but it was far from organized. Alas, they came up empty. Father spoke again, this time with fear in his own voice, "It will soon be dark. We must search the field again, BUT THIS TIME WE MUST JOIN HANDS and not miss an inch. Give me your hands." And so they did. More neighbors came and they all joined hands, neighbor to neighbor, and walked across that field in one single sweeping line. After a while a cry went up. "Here is the child!" But the little one was sleeping never to wake again. He had crawled a while and had smothered in the tall wheat.

Father knelt beside his son, the tears flowing down and said, "Oh if only we would have joined hands, BEFORE it was too late!"

A story often used by
Brother A.G. Fahnstock
Adapted by Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 1, 1934

HIS THOUGHTS TROUBLE HIM

Daniel 5:6

J.H. Beer

To many men, thinking is an unusual employment, yet it is a distinction of man that he can think, and when he fails to think it's no wonder that when thought is forced upon some men that they are troubled.

This trouble from thought should be beneficent, for by it conviction and conversion may come; troubled thought is as sounding of an alarm bell, arousing the mind, and warning the soul.

Let us think of ourselves, as we think of Belshazzar, of us too it may have been said "his thoughts troubled him." Persons must be in a bad way if they dare not face their own thoughts about themselves. What must God's thoughts be of such?

It did not appear, very likely, to Belshazzar that his thoughts would trouble him. He was a reckless Monarch, he came of a fierce nation, and was the son of a father who had been punished for his proud haughty spirit, who hardened his heart with pride. (verses 22-23.) Daniel said, "Thou hast lifted up thyself against the Lord of heaven."

He was drinking wine, (V. 2) and rioting in gay company: "his princes, his wives, and his concubines," such company usually banish all thoughts from the mind and help the leader in his recklessness.

He was venturing far in his drunken revelry, profaning the sacred vessels that his father had taken from the Temple of God in Jerusalem, and carried down into Babylon. At this banquet they drank wine from these sacred vessels and praised his gods of gold and of silver, of brass, of iron, of wood and of stones, showing his contempt for Israel's God.

No man is made wise or thoughtful by the wine cup. Many other men in lower positions exhibit equal pride in much the same manner, with much the same contempt for the things of God. A parallel is easily drawn between Belshazzar and other proud people.

Well might his thoughts trouble him, for what he saw was a mystery appalling, the fingers of a man's hand over against the candlestick, V. 5. God gave him a warning that he could not resist. When the king saw the part of the hand that wrote, then the king's countenance was changed, and his thoughts troubled him, so that the joints of his loins were loosed, and his knees smote one against another.

A wonderful mystery. Where was the hand? What had he written? What could it mean? Where was the writer? What he was then in the act of doing alarmed him, he was wantonly defying the God of Israel. No doubt his past life came before him of his cruel wars, oppressions and vices, and what he had himself failed to do, V. 23. The God in whose hand

thy breath is, and whose are all thy ways, hast thou not glorified, He has sipped a strange draught out of those holy cups.

There is a scripture which says, "When Herod the king had heard these things he was troubled, and all Jerusalem with him." When God reveals his hand and power wicked man and women are troubled.

Dear reader are you reconciled to God or do your thoughts trouble you? Are you careless, riotous, fond of feasts, given to drinking wine?

If so you are trifling with holy things, the hand writing on the wall over against the candlestick, is against you, God's thoughts are above your thoughts. He asks you to repent of your sins, believe on His Son Jesus, then your thoughts will cease to trouble you.

NEWS ITEMS GENERAL CONFERENCE

JUNE 4-8, 1994

Directions to the Memorial Holiness Camp Grounds located one and one-half mile southwest of West Milton, Ohio on Jay Road. Those traveling from North on I-75, should exit at Route 55 and go west to Route 48, then south to Garland Road (approximately one-half mile south of West Milton) then west on Jay Road, then north to grounds. Those coming from North on Route 127, take Route 571 to Route 48 and proceed south to the grounds. Those coming from East or West on I-70, should exit at Route 48 and proceed north approximately 6 miles to Garland Road and proceed west to grounds. *20124*

By plane, come to Dayton International Airport and call the camp grounds for someone to pick you up. The telephone number is 513-698-9387. Those coming by bus, come to Dayton and call the camp ground number or there is also local bus service from downtown Dayton to West Milton.

If possible, bring your own bedding. There will be bedding available at the grounds for those who cannot bring their own.

There are plenty of camper hook ups available.

Send you reservations NOW to:

Bro. Don Hostetler
8383 Arcanum-Bears Mill Rd.
Greenville, OH 45331
513-548-7382

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton congregation is looking forward to their Love Feast the third Saturday of May the 21st and 22nd. Services will begin at 11:00 on Saturday A.M.. We cordially invite all who can to come and enjoy the services and fellowship with us. Pray that the Lord's will would be accomplished.

Sis. Dianne Heisey

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

WHO AM I?

Who am I that I should think
I'm better than another?
God created all the same –
Me and also my brother.

Everyone should humble be,
For mistakes are made by all.
Then how happy I should be
For someone's help when I fall.

So when I think I'm so right,
Let me search God's Word and see,
For that's the source of knowledge
Given for you and me.

Then if I add to knowledge,
Wisdom and understanding,
Then I can live a true life
Of love and peace unending.

-Irene Stout

EXPERIENCE

As we travel the pathway of life, we accumulate many experiences, both good and bad. When young we discount our elder's experiences, while we envision a perfect, dream-like world, that will develop as we expect. So we do not listen to their advice.

Often, one of the requirements for obtaining a job is the listing of experience in that field. If we have not had experience, it is most unlikely that we will be hired. The one with experience will most likely get the job instead of us. Eventually we will be the one with the experience, then our ideas may be requested as problems are encountered or a new course is to be followed. Sometimes, experience can be a hinderance if we have not kept current or we can not conceive of any other way of doing things than what we have always done.

The experience of life will vary. Some will be pleasant, while others will be sad or painful. The pleasant events will give us a good feeling and should make us appreciative of what we have. Often, it is the bad experiences that will be the most valuable in forming character. If we learn to profit from those distasteful experiences, our lives will be made better. It is when we face the tough times in life that we learn to lean on God and His people. When all goes well, we have a tendency to congratulate ourselves on a job well done and forget that these blessings are really from God. Often we do not have anything really to do with what we have from God. He gives us so much in just loving us. We are more likely to profit, when we realize that we are not the captains of our own destinies. When our troubles are beyond our own ability, we realize that our help must be from God. When we are beyond our own ability, we can realize we

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are not the designers and executers of our lives. That knowledge will improve our lives.

Our experiences in life are not confined to the physical, material and financial affairs of life. There are also Spiritual experiences, which are important. Our lives consist of more than the physical and material elements of life. If we are not careful, we may emphasize those areas more than we should. Thus, we must pay attention to the Spiritual experiences of life.

The Apostle John spoke of the experiences that he and the other Apostles had enjoyed. During the three years, they had been with Jesus, they had enjoyed the privilege of seeing, hearing and watching Jesus as He performed miracles, taught the people and dealt with the religious leaders. They had received a liberal education. They were convinced of His deity. Peter, James and John had especially been favored with these great experiences, for they had been included in some of the special times of Jesus' ministry that the other Apostles had been excluded from. They had been in the room when Jairus' daughter had been raised to life. They had seen His transfiguration. They had been a little closer than the others, so they had received this special training so they would be more effective spokesmen after His ascension.

They had something to share with others. They had been deeply convinced by these experiences, so they could convey their belief to those to whom they spoke and wrote. There was no doubt in their minds, now, although there had been before His death and resurrection. They knew from their experience that He was the Son of God, sent to rescue and save the fallen.

Thomas had had an especial experience after Jesus' resurrection. He had been absent when Jesus first showed Himself to His Apostles. It was beyond his mind's capacity to believe. When Jesus appeared to them a week later, Thomas had his opportunity to experience the resurrected Jesus. It did not require all the proof that he had said it would, just the sight of Jesus and His wounds convinced Thomas that He had indeed resurrected. Jesus commended Thomas for accepting the truth as quickly as he did, but He especially commended all who afterward would accept His resurrection without actually seeing Him in person. Experience that comes through faith is a great blessing. It is necessary for us. We must accept Him by faith and experience what He can do with our lives.

What has your experience with Jesus been? Have you accepted Him by faith? Have you gone forward with Him by faith, so you can testify of Him through faith and by experience? Your experience can change not only your life, but the lives of others, who see your experience openly demonstrated.

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Prepared...

In April, I preached the funeral of one of our precious young people. It put into perspective for me once again... "the old must die, the young may die." It is so important that we be prepared to meet our Maker at all times. Life is serious business. God does not deny us pleasure and good times of a wholesome nature, but we must always strive to live within His will and work for His cause.

We take great pains in preparing our body for some special occasion. We dress just right, wear appropriate attire and shoes. We prepare for a special occasion in our home...cooking, cleaning, and so forth. We prepare for our vocations with extensive training and care. How much care goes into our training and preparing for eternity? How much time do we even spend contemplating it?

Springtime especially gives testimony to the truth of regeneration as we see the earth emerge from its wintry slumber and come forth with fresh green vegetation from the soil. Plant life is given new life. Nature is preparing for something to happen. One of those happenings is a great phenomenon. When we put a kernel of corn into the ground and then watch new life spring forth from that dead kernel, the great miracle of regeneration of the human spirit comes to our minds. It has been made possible because of Christ's substitutionary death on the cross. The moment we place our trust in the Lord, the Holy Spirit fills our spirits with eternal life and we are eternally, spiritually alive. We are prepared for the future.

Just a glance at the morning news is enough to put us under a gloom cloud all day. There is little news outside of scandal, war, murder, crooked politicians, divorces and the like. There is something desperately wrong with the people of the world. They are certainly not preparing for a future with Christ. They are just trying to survive...under their own power. They are certainly dysfunctional. Without Christ, nothing will go right now or in the future.

God prepared us for physical life when He breathed the "breath of life" into us...and we became a living soul. He prepared us to function in this world's environment. But, we are more concerned about the preparation of the soul in this discussion. The spiritual life which enables us to have communion with God is the only lasting thing that we can consider. The soul is at the center of everything. It stands between the physical world and God. In a sense, it belongs integrally to both but since the soul has free will, it must decide which will dominate our life...the spirit or the body.

Has your spirit gone through the necessary renovation to allow it to be in the presence of a Holy God for eternity? Are you prepared to die?

Those are pretty bold questions...but important ones. Until the One who made us comes to dwell in His rightful place within our spirits, we can never be complete. There will always be a sense of something missing. We can not be complete! This must be the compelling emphasis of our life. Not, of course, as the world is selling us on the idea that our emphasis for fulfillment will be found in pleasure, beauty, power, fame, money, sex, and just "good deeds." I assure you that these things will only bring a void to your life. They will prepare you for an eternity with Satan and his company of disbelievers for eternity. These people walk in darkness. The Christian walks in light.

When we are born again, we start the process of preparation. For the first time, we are able to understand what inner light really is. And, if there is anything this old world needs today, it is light. The only true source of this light is Christ.

The spirit is that part of man which makes him conscious of God and relates him to Him. The soul is that part of us which relates us to ourselves and gives us self-consciousness. The soul allows us to reveal our personalities. It draws upon both the conscious and the subconscious minds which are part of it. It is the part of man where the spirit and body find their external expression. In Jesus, there is life in death. Our regeneration means God has made us whole people once again and by virtue of that fact, He has equipped us to live victoriously in this life and gloriously with Him for eternity. Are you prepared?

Brother Len Wertz

CHRISTIANS

Introduction

John 3:16, "For God SO loved the (sinful) world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not PERISH, but have EVERLASTING LIFE."

The son was JESUS CHRIST. He brought a new conception, or beginning of a new way of life. That new way was named after CHRIST, namely CHRISTIANITY.

We read in Acts 11:26, "...And the disciples were called CHRISTIANS first in ANTIOCH."

A CHRISTIAN is a BELIEVER in JESUS CHRIST. He is a DOER of HIS COMMANDMENTS.

A True Christian

I John 4:1, "...many false prophets are gone out into the world."

They deceive many, trying to destroy ETERNAL LIFE even for the very elect. A true DEDICATED CHRISTIAN will totally shun and ignore such prophets.

A DEDICATED CHRISTIAN is a BORN AGAIN CHILD OF GOD. He has been baptized as Christ and the Eunuch were. The one who administered baptism and the one being baptized BOTH went DOWN INTO THE WATER. They were IMMERSSED THREE TIMES, once in the name of the FATHER, once in the name of the SON and once in the name of the HOLY GHOST. Then they came UP OUT OF THE WATER. Those so BAPTIZED have their names written in the Lamb's Book of life. Rev. 21:27. In II Cor. 5:17, we read, "Therefore if any man be in CHRIST, he is a NEW CREATURE: old things are passed away: behold, all things are become NEW."

Those who have never been immersed or who accepted man's way of sprinkling or pouring, have never experienced the new birth. You can not be born of something smaller than yourself. The natural birth is accompanied by water. The fetus is completely immersed in water. To be reborn you have to be completely buried in water, in order to be freed of sin, and to have CHRIST and the HOLY SPIRIT take charge of your life.

A Christian has to make choices daily, concerning what he or she MUST DO and what he or she WILL NOT DO. Joshua 24:15, "...but as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." He made the right CHOICE.

A Christian Will Do The Following, Willingly

HE or SHE will:

EARNESTLY CONTEND for the faith which was once delivered unto the saints. Jude 3. Do the WILL OF GOD from the HEART. Eph. 6:6. OBEY GOD rather than MAN. Acts 5:29. BUY THE TRUTH and sell it not. Prov. 23:23. Not OUR WILL, but the WILL OF OUR LORD be done. Acts 21:14. There are many more scriptures on this subject. It is our DUTY to TRUST and OBEY, for there is NO other WAY. It is every CHRISTIAN'S duty to keep HIMSELF or HERSELF UNSPOTTED from the WORLD. James 1:27.

We are to LOVE our BRETHREN and SISTERS. John 15:12. We are to love our MATES. Eph. 5:25.

We are to LOVE GOD and KEEP HIS COMMANDMENTS. I John 5:2.

We are to LOVE our ENEMIES. Matt. 5:44.

We are to COME OUT from the world and be a SEPARATE PEOPLE. II Cor. 6:17.

We are to BEAR WITNESS of the LIGHT (Jesus). John 1:8.

We are NOT TO WALK in the DARKNESS OF THIS WORLD, but to FOLLOW THE LAMB OF GOD who is the LIGHT of THE WORLD. Rev. 21:23.

A Christian Will Not Do the Following:

DRINK LIQUOR, Prov. 20:1. Wine is a MOCKER - imitation - sham.

RAGING - to be angry, violent, out of control.

HAVE ABORTIONS - THOU SHALT NOT KILL. Ex. 20:13.

STEAL - THOU SHALT NOT STEAL. Ex. 20:15

COVET - THOU SHALT NOT COVET. Ex. 20:17. (Wanting or wishing for that which someone else has.)

LIE NOT one to another. Col. 3:9.

For THOU that have a **RIGHT** to the **TREE OF LIFE**, they **MAY ENTER IN** through the gates into the (Holy) City. For without are WHOSOEVER LOVETH and MAKETH A LIE. Parts of Rev. 22:14-15. The **DEVIL** is a **LIAR**, and the **FATHER OF IT**. John 8:44.

SWEAR NOT. James 5:12.

KEEP THYSELF PURE. I Tim. 5:22. Neither will they **ENGAGE** in **SEX** outside of **MARRIAGE** or in **FORNICATION** or **ADULTERY**. I Cor. 6:9 states that "Neither FORNICATIONS nor ADULTERERS shall **INHERIT** the KINGDOM OF GOD." There is only one other place to spend ETERNITY. That place is **HELL**.

DOING DRUGS, SMOKING, CHEWING TOBACCO and DRINKING LIQUOR DEFILES the BODY MAKING IT UNFIT for the INDWELLING of the HOLY GHOST.

Thus there is more to **CHRISTIANITY** than having our name on a CHURCH RECORD. There are millions of people living today who claim they are **LIVING A CHRISTIAN LIFE**, but they are **DECEIVED** by **FALSE PREACHERS** and **FALSE TEACHERS**. **TRUE CHRISTIANS** are **BELIEVERS** and **DOERS** of the WORD and **NOT HEARERS ONLY**.

Does **CHRISTIANITY AFFECT** our BEHAVIOR? IT CERTAINLY SHOULD. ENTIRELY too many PROFESSING CHRISTIANS are living a very **SINFUL LIFE**. You can not be a **CHRISTIAN** and **FELLOWSHIP** with the **WORLD**.

Christ said, "I am the light of the world." John 9:5.

He also said, "Ye are the light of the world." Matt. 5:14.

"Men (people) love darkness rather than light." John 3:19. (Because their deeds are evil.)

In March 1994 "Readers Digest" under the subject of The Scourge of Illegitimacy, the author Charles Krauthammer writes that in certain areas in the United States, especially inner cities, illegitimacy is up to 80 per cent. Of these illegitimate babies, many are abandoned. Many more, through the many avenues of welfare, are provided for, by our government helping to raise taxes to the highest known level. Over all nearly 30 per cent of the children born in the United States are illegitimate. In 1991, 707,502 babies were born to single white women, below the poverty line.

Results: welfare, unemployed. These children become delinquents, more poverty, often leading to drugs, homelessness, illiteracy. Thus, illegitimacy has spread to the third generation. It will get worse. Laws are not enforced. Illegitimacy drains a community's resources. These people depend on welfare, subsidized housing, food stamps, all coming from the tax payer. SIN costs a HIGH PRICE.

Those living in sin are not CHRISTIANS. Our NATION is in a very SINFUL CONDITION. Those who are true Christians and study their Bible know why. MODERN PREACHERS, even with a list of college degrees, ARE NOT PREACHING SOUND DOCTRINE. Many are PREACHING a FALSE DOCTRINE. Does the modern day preacher, preach the need of TRINE IMMERSION BAPTISM? NO! The need to LIVE A NON-CONFORMED LIFE, SEPARATED FROM and AGAINST the WORLD? NO! Does he preach that the sisters ARE NOT TO BOB their hair? NO! To wear a PRAYER VEIL? NO! They are FAILING MISERABLY to do what PAUL told Timothy to do. PREACH THE WORD. II Tim. 4:2.

To Be Continued
Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave. N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

POEM

He giveth
He Cleanseth
He buyeth
He keepeth
He dyeth
He beareth the cross
And
He saveth ME!
-Naomi Crawford

A ONE WORLD CHURCH

Amos 3:3, "Can two walk together, except they be agreed?"

I Timothy 1:19, "Holding faith, and a good conscience; which some having put away concerning faith have made shipwreck."

Revelation 17:5, "And upon her forehead was a name written,

MYSTERY, BABYLON THE GREAT, THE MOTHER OF HARLOTS AND ABOMINATIONS OF THE EARTH."

While various individuals and groups interpret prophecy in various ways, most of them agree that a one world church is a part of prophecy. While it is entirely possible and even probable that there will be a one world church in our future under an anti-Christ, we believe the seed for this one world church was planted way back in the time when the apostles still lived. We also believe it flourished greatly soon after their death. This one world church was founded by taking the truth taught by the apostles and mixing it with error. History records that there was a time when this false religion controlled both politics and the earthly church of its time.

As time went on the teachings of this false "church" became the accepted teachings of the majority of the established religious groups. From this came the practice of infant baptism and the many man-made teachings that go along with it. Unfortunately, many of the small groups that refused to accept these teachings also rejected many true Bible teachings as well. Strangely enough the majority that rejected infant baptism embraced the theology of those who held to this unscriptural practice. While this may not be THE one world church, we believe that a one world church exists in our time made up of those who teach and practice that we can be a part of this world and all its sinful allurements and still be a true follower of Christ. It is well recorded that the false "church" of history taught an unscriptural works religion but assured the masses that they could follow the world as long as they did not oppose the teachings of the "church."

In our day much has been added and taken away from the Holy Scriptures in the name of "Bible believing Christians." While "fundamentalists" and "liberals" argue over Scripture, they are in agreement over "essentials and non-essentials" in the majority of instances. It is true that the Bible teaches that "Every spirit that confesseth that Jesus Christ is come in the flesh is of God," but it is also true that we must rightly interpret what this means. Every cult and Bible denying liberal would agree that a man called Jesus Christ walked the earth. (Those who deny that Jesus Christ was even a historical person do not even deserve the label "liberal.") Also to suggest that Jesus Christ may have been a woman is outright blasphemy and should put those who teach this in the category of heretic.) But they deny who Jesus Christ truly was or put Him in the same position as a human. You can SAY that you believe that Jesus Christ was God in the flesh but if you put His mother in the same place of worship you are actually denying this. To pray to someone is to worship them. By the same token, if you only accept Jesus Christ as Savior and deny the need of Him as Lord of your life for salvation you are in face denying who He truly is. This can be done by word or by deed. Those who are following the spirit of Anti-Christ are described as follows. "They are of the world: therefore speak they of the world, and the world heareth them."

We love our Dunkard Brethren Church and we are grateful that we have rejected this anti-christ spirit and its various false teachings. We have always stood for the Bible and refused to take part in meetings with those who deny its truth. We believe that we have elders and ministers who desire to follow Christ and all His teachings.

"Mystery Babylon the Great, the Mother of harlots and abominations of the Earth" is alive today at least in spirit. All who are a part of her have one thing in common. They deny the need of obedience to be a part of the true body of Christ. They deny Holy Scripture is for today in one area or another. Can you be a part of her and still be a true Christian? We leave that answer up to God. But we desire to avoid the spirit that is in the world endeavoring to entice the church to accept the world. This will produce a "one worldly church" that will be accepted by the masses. May God keep our Dunkard Brethren Church a true Bible believing church.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

THE LORD IS GOOD

"The Lord is good, a strong hold in the day of trouble; and he knoweth them that trust in him." Nahum 1:7.

He is essentially good, immutably good, infinitely good. The good of all creation is derived from Him. They are only so many beams from this sun, or so many drops from this ocean. "He is good to all, and his tender mercies are over all his works." But His goodness does not appear here in its highest form. The reason is these creatures never forfeited His care and kindness: they answer the purpose of their original creation. It is not so with man. We have rebelled against Him. We are transgressors from the womb. We deserve, as children of disobedience, that His wrath should be poured out upon us. YET such is His marvellous lovingkindness, that even "the children of men put their trust under the shadow of his wings." He spares us and preserves us. He provides for us, and gives us richly all things to enjoy. What a world has He fitted up for us! What sights for our eyes! What sounds for our ears! What relishes for our appetites! Yet, if He were to stop the bounties of nature and providence, we could EVEN THEN exclaim with the Apostle John, "Herein is Love." In what? "Not that we loved God, but that God loved us, and sent his Son to be the propitiation for our sins." Oh, this INSURES every other blessing. "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us of all things." This INVOLVES every other. He is "all in all." By Him and in Him we are "blessed with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places." How good is He who, not only without our desert and with out desire, provided for us such a

Saviour, but has disposed and enabled us also to avail ourselves of Him; who was called us not only by His Word, but by the Spirit? "Why," may every Christian ask:

"Why was I made to hear His voice,
And enter while there's room,
While thousands make a wretched choice,
And rather starve than come?

"T'was the same love that spread the feast –
That sweetly forced me in,
Else I had still refused to taste,
And perished in my sin."

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

May 15, 1934
SELLING OUR BIRTHRIGHT
L.W. Beery

Not only is there danger of one losing his birthright, but there is a possibility that one may, under the stress of circumstances, sell or exchange his heritage for some immediate gratification that is of little value. An illustration along this line is given in Genesis 24:29-34, where the account of Esau selling his birthright to Jacob is recorded. In this case, Esau fell heir to all the possessions of Issac his father, and Issac had great possessions; all that Abraham had, his flocks, herds, silver, gold, menservants, maidservants, camels, and asses were given to Issac (Gen. 25:25-36.) Esau knew that all these great possessions were his birthright but to gratify the desire of the flesh for the time being he foolishly surrendered it all.

Those who read the account of this transaction are amazed at such folly, yet more astonishing transactions are taking place about us in this enlightened age. We think it strange that Esau would sell his birthright for a morsel of meat, yet, many folks are willing to barter their spiritual birthright (which is infinitely greater) for some trivial frivolity of the world.

We know well that the scriptures teach that a Christian cannot be a friend of the world, participate in its pleasures and follies, engage in its dishonest, unjust, unmerciful, and oppressive ways nor be subject to its dictates; for the world in its sinful things is dominated by Satan, the enemy of all righteousness; and, "Ye cannot serve God and mammon." (Matt. 6:24.)

We know too, that to live the true Christian life means self denial and burden bearing. "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me." (Matt. 16:24.) If one would live a faithful Christian life there comes times when he meets trying circumstances. Because of the wickedness of men the necessities of life may be withheld from him and he may have to endure severe hardships and persecutions. Satan uses just such circumstances and conditions to bring about the downfall of the righteous by suggesting compromises to gratify the yearnings or alleviate the suffering of the flesh. In the event that we would accept his compromise, it is virtually "selling our birthright for a mess of pottage," exchanging everlasting life for a temporary gratification of the flesh.

In Matthew 4 we have the record of the temptation of Jesus after He had fasted in the wilderness for forty days and nights. Here Satan with all his deceptiveness (by quoting scripture) appealed to Jesus through the lust of the flesh, the lust of the eye and the pride of life, to barter away His heritage. Should Jesus have yielded, He would have sold His birthright for a mess of pottage.

From all indications Satan has a host of servants in the ministry today practicing the same deceptiveness (quoting scripture and appealing to the people through the lusts of the flesh) and their success is astounding.

There are many ways in which we can barter away our birthright. Whenever we disobey the Word of God in order to gain riches, the praise of men, friendship of the world, pleasure or such like things; whenever we adorn or decorate our bodies, engage in business activities, or otherwise go contrary to the scriptures we are simply "selling our birthright for a mess of pottage."

After successfully resisting Satan's temptations, the angels came and ministered unto Jesus supplying His needs in His famished condition.

In like manner, if we are faithful our needs will be supplied in due time.

After selling his birthright Esau, "When he would have inherited the blessing, he was rejected: for he found no place for repentance, though he sought it carefully with tears." (Heb. 12:17.)

This is true with those who are born of the Spirit."For it is impossible for those who were once enlightened, and have tasted of the heavenly gift, and were made partakers of the Holy Ghost, And have tasted the good word of God, and the powers of the world to come, If they shall fall away, to renew them again unto repentance; seeing they crucify to themselves the Son of God afresh, and put him to an open shame." (Heb. 6:4-6.)

"For what is a man profited, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" (Matt. 16:26.)

GOING HOME

I started on a journey
That was very, very long;
My spirit was rejoicing
In my heart I had a song.
I had no thought of trouble
As I started on my way;
I hoped to reach my home
At the closing of the day.
The roads were so rugged
And the rain began to pour;
The highway soon was covered
And it rained yet more and more.
The obstacles could not stop me
As homeward I did go;
I rejoiced along my journey
Through the rain, the sleet and snow.
Likewise, along Life's journey
As we travel here below;
We encounter days of darkness
And the stormy winds that blow.
Let not the stormy winds beset us
Though sometimes we may fall;
Look beyond the storm clouds
To the God who conquers all.
We can gladly face the troubles
As homeward we do go;
Soon we'll settle down forever
Where the storms will never blow.

Selected by Sister E.M. Alltus

OBITUARY

GERTRUDE WETZEL

Gertrude (Carson) Wetzel was born October 30, 1898 to Andrew and Effie (Stoakey) Carson and departed this life March 30, 1994 at the Elms Nursing Home in Macomb, Illinois. On June 5, 1921, Gertrude married Harry Wetzel, who died in 1974.

To this union were born fourteen children; Burdette, deceased; Harriet Cordell of Colchester, Illinois; Doris Vance of Westphalia, Kansas; Andrew of Warsaw, Illinois; Richard of Galesburg, Illinois; Lillian Webb of Atlanta, Illinois; Conrad of Tiskilwa, Illinois; Glenna Purdy of Colchester, Illinois; Eldon of Macomb, Illinois; Jack of Aiken, South Carolina; Jean Horney of Macomb, Illinois, Luanne Steiner of Englewood, Colorado; Karen Dean of Colchester, Illinois and Joe of Colchester, Illinois.

Besides her husband and son preceding her in death, were three grandchildren, her parents and six brothers. Two brothers survive; Otis Carson of Zepher Hills, Florida and Carl Carson of Carthage, Illinois. She was a beloved grandmother to fifty six grandchildren, fifty eight great grandchildren and ten great-great grandchildren.

When Mother was six months old her parents, along with several other Brethren families, moved from Illinois to homestead in Idaho and establish a Brethren congregation. Her parents returned to Illinois when she was seven years old. As a young woman, she committed her life to Christ and was baptized into the Camp Creek Church of the Brethren. On September 2, 1961 she transferred her membership to the South Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church near Astoria, Illinois in which fellowship she continued for the remainder of her life.

Mother's faith was very important to her, enabling her to enjoy life's many pleasures, to meet life's difficulties with graciousness and strength and to fill the lives of her children with love and laughter she sought by word and example to teach us how to have love for God and neighbor and to live our lives for Christ. Our young imaginations were captivated by the stories of her childhood in Idaho and Illinois. She blessed and enriched our young hearts with her love of people, her interest in flowers and nature, and her gifts of music, drawing and painting. And to those who became her sons and daughters by marriage, she extended a warm and loving welcome into her family.

She has continued these many years to enrich all of us with her abiding faith, her forgiving attitude, and her sweet and gentle spirit. Even in our loss at this time of her death, we can rejoice with the certain knowledge that she is now in Heaven, resting in the eternal love of God. We her family are comforted by knowing that we are joined by her many friends in rising up and calling her blessed.

Mother's Prayer she taught us:

"Dear Heavenly Father, we thank you for this food. Give us each day. Forgive us of our sins, and receive us in Heaven. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen."

Psalm 23

"The Lord is my shepherd; I shall not want. He maketh me to lie down in green pastures: he leadeth me beside the still waters. He restoreth my soul: he leadeth me in the paths of righteousness for his name's sake. Yea, though I walk through the valley of the shadow of death, I will fear no evil: for thou art with me; thy rod and thy staff they comfort me. Thou preparest a table before me in the presence of mine enemies: thou anointest my head with oil; my cup runneth over. Surely goodness and mercy shall follow me all the days of my life: and I will dwell in the house of the Lord for ever."

Amazing Grace

Amazing grace! how sweet the sound,
That saved a wretch like me!
I once was lost, but now am found,
Was blind, but now I see.

'Twas grace that taught my heart to fear,
And grace my fears relieved;
How precious did that grace appear
The hour I first believed!

Through many dangers, toils and snare,
I have already come;
'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far,
And grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years,
Bright shining as the sun,
We've no less days to sing God's praise
Than when we first begun.

Services were held April 2, 1994 at 11:00 A.M. in the Colchester United Methodist Church with Clinton Kersler, Jr. and Ron Bricker officiating. Granddaughter Peggy Webster was organist and granddaughters vocalists. Interment in Camp Creek Cemetery.

Memorials to Torreon Navajo Mission and Staff at Elms Nursing Home.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1994

June 5 - Peter Meets Cornelius - Acts 10:19-33.

1. Does God speak in visions today as He did to Peter?
2. Why did God send Cornelius to see Peter?

June 12 - "God is no Respecter of Persons" - Acts 10:34-48.

1. How did God show Peter that He is no respecter of persons?
2. What quality in our life will keep us from being prejudiced?

June 19 - FATHER'S DAY - Genesis 27:18-40

1. Examine the strengths and weaknesses of Isaac as a father.
2. What qualities is God looking for in a father?

June 26 - TEMPERANCE - I Corinthians 9:1-27.

1. How is temperance a key to victory in our spiritual life?
2. How can we improve our level of self-control?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JUNE 1994

June 5 - Good from Evil - Rom. 8:28, Gen. 41:25-41, 50:14-26.

1. What should we use as a standard of good?
2. How can we discern between good and evil?

June 12 - The Lord's Passover - Rev. 5:12, Exodus 12:28.

1. Ponder the Spiritual analogies of the Passover in Egypt.
2. Have you experienced the "password" that will allow you to be a part of the "passover"?

June 19 - A Father's Advice - Prov. 1:8-9, Exodus 18:1-27.

1. List some of the blessings of respecting parental authority.
2. Why is it so important to seek and follow a father's advice?

June 26 - TEMPERANCE - I Cor. 9:25, II Pet. 1:1-11

1. Define temperance.
2. How is self-control imperative to faithful Christian living?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 11

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A BLESSING

Not to the man of dollars,
Not to the man of deeds,
Not unto craft and cunning,
Not unto human creeds;
Not to the one whose passion
Is for the world's renown,
Not in the form of fashion
Cometh a blessing down.

But to the one whose spirit
Yearns for the great and good;
Unto the one whose storehouse
Yieldeth the hungry food;
Unto the one who labors
Fearless of foe or frown;
Unto the kindly-hearted,
Cometh a blessing down.

-Mary Frances Tucker

A FAMILY REUNION

We all enjoy getting together with our friends and families. We like to be with the people we love and who love us. Family reunions are especially enjoyable. These reunions usually are held fairly frequently so members of the extended family can keep in touch. Famliy reunions are good times for becoming better acquainted with our relatives, however distant. Because of a biological relationship there is a draw one to another.

The reunion commemorates the family's common ancestors, with many references to the "Good Old Days". There is an interest in recounting the lives of ancestors who have gone the way of all flesh. Many stories from the past are shared (perhaps with a little embellishment) and the current status of each family member is made known. However a particular famliy organizes their reunion, it is the fellowship enjoyed by the family members that is most important.

It is sad when members of the extended family lose touch with each other. Either because of distance or diverse interests, people do not keep in touch. When there is a lack of contact, intimacy is lacking and the relationship fades. Sometimes even siblings, as well as cousins, lose their relationship. When researchers try to assemble a family history, they have difficulty finding all the descendants whom they expect to find. Some of the relatives only vaguely know about each other, so it is difficult to bring together all the twigs that belong on the family tree.

Sometimes tensions arise within families that destroy relationships. It may be caused by personality clashes or it may be by sharply-spoken, unwise words. In too many family histories, there

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are the entries for the brother or sister, "who went west and was never heard from again." Sometimes no one went anywhere but the relationship was destroyed by deeds or words. Despite the various tensions that can disrupt families, most families are able to hold together and enjoy a reunion.

At this time when family values are under attack from all sides, it is encouraging when families can be drawn together. There may be various divisions, whether political or religious, which divide families, so it is heartening when these potential divisions can be overcome and they can gather for a reunion. Perhaps the nostalgia of the reunion will cause those who have followed courses not in harmony with the lives of their common ancestors to consider their ways and seek to return to their ancestor's values.

There is another family that gathers for a reunion. That reunion is called General Conference. The Church is composed of those who belong to God's Family. The Church, like a natural family, has a need to gather together. The Church has a higher concern than the mere recounting of history, although the past does set a precedent for much that is done. The Church is interested in the well-being of all her members, so she must consider the best ways for her members. The gathering of this family is a time of worship. When the Family of God gathers from the various congregations spread across the Brotherhood, there is a desire to hear the Word of God proclaimed. When the Brethren are gathered, there seems to be a pouring forth of the Spirit of God in the preaching. Hearing different voices and hearing different words than at home, makes the message seem new and perhaps more invigorating. There is a season of fellowship that helps unite the Brotherhood together. Brethren can be together who seldom have the opportunity, thus they are more securely bound by Christian Love. Conference is an opportunity to make of fellow-believers life-long friends. Those who share the blood of Jesus have the strongest of all bonds. This reunion offers through the preached word, the opportunity for those who have not committed themselves to the Lord to do so.

This Family Reunion is more important than the usual family reunion. Here, not only is a physical relationship nurtured, but a Spiritual one as well. Here God and His Word becomes the primary focus of all who attend. Rather than focusing on human ancestors, who may or may not have served God, the opportunity is present to focus on God, Himself.

Family reunions are very special in our lives. The Family Reunion of God's Family is even more special. It is a time set apart for the worship of God and the fellowship of the saints. It serves to draw the family of God closer together and to spread His Word.

Will you attend a family reunion this year? Will you attend the reunion of God's Family?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

A Brief Look at Death

There is much to be learned about death within the Word of God. Of course, the Word doesn't tell us everything and we can well afford to wait until He will be pleased to reveal its fullness. It is enough to know that Jesus Christ is Lord, the Great Shepherd of His sheep and that He has gone this way before His followers. He is still our personal Friend and Helper as we walk through the "valley of the shadow of death." We need not fear it!

There are two ways of looking at death. There are two standpoints from which we might view it. Surveyed from nature's point of view, death is much to be dreaded. It is man's last enemy, his most terrifying foe. There is nothing which individuals possess that death will not take from them...riches, honor, dignity, pleasure...all that the HUMAN heart values. All of these things make up the sum of human happiness in this world. Everything that man possesses here must pass away under the withering touch of the hand of death, and what a person might have been becomes a thing of the past. The opportunities of which we do not take advantage also pass into hand of death. From the human viewpoint, death is the great thief to kill and to destroy.

But there is another way of looking at death. It is from the viewpoint of a believer in Jesus Christ. In I Corinthians 3:22, there is an unusual item set down in that marvelous inventory of the believer's possession. One of the possessions that we have is "death." That possession will also be left behind when we pass into eternity. That last enemy, most dreaded foe, from which we shrink with horror...this horrible thing called death, will be left behind.

How? How could this miracle happen? The answer is in the Cross. Christ died, the Just for the unjust, died for our sins. Thus He has taken the sting from death...for the sting of death is sin. He has not only removed the sting but has completely changed the character of death for us.

There is a story told by Dr. James Gray that illustrates the loss of the sting. A farmer said, after being stung by a bee, "There is one thing that brings me a good deal of satisfaction...that bee will never sting another man." "Why?" asked a visitor to the farm, "Did you kill it?" "No," he said, "but that bee had only one stinger, so he will sting no other man." Death has but one sting and that one was lodged in the body of Jesus Christ on the cross. Since that is true, death may alight upon the believer but there is no sting in it for him. Its power to torment is gone. Death is no longer the jailer of the grave, but the porter that opens the gate to paradise.

Thus it is that death is the Christian's possession. What a great change. Viewed from nature's standpoint, man belongs to death...

but from faith's standpoint, death belongs to man. In the old creation there is not a single thing which death does not take from man...in the new creation, there is not a single thing which death does not give to him. There is not a blessing, not a dignity, which we possess as a Christian, that we do not owe to death. We gain life through death...forgiveness of sins, everlasting righteousness, eternal glory...all through the glorious death of our Saviour.

Death belongs to the Christian. Because that is true, should we any longer fear it? No! It dissolves only the mortal and in a moment links and binds us to a scene of ineffable joy and unbroken communion with Jesus.

Brother Len Wertz

CHRISTIANS

continued from May 15, 1994 issue

As a consequence of PREACHERS FAILING to PREACH THE WORD, the Bible calls them BLIND. Matt. 15:14, "Let them alone (don't listen to them) THEY BE BLIND LEADERS OF THE BLIND, BOTH SHALL FALL INTO THE DITCH." LOST.

FAITH is a VITAL, ESSENTIAL, FUNDAMENTAL, INDISPENSABLE, VERY IMPORTANT and is ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY to living the LIFE of a CHRISTIAN. FAITH is the FOUNDATION upon which our HOPES are BUILT. Webster defines FAITH as UNQUESTIONABLE BELIEF in GOD and CHRIST. The Bible definition of FAITH is recorded in Hebrews 10:11, "Now FAITH is the SUBSTANCE of things HOPED FOR, the EVIDENCE of things not seen." Without FAITH it is IMPOSSIBLE to please God. Mark 11:22. HAVE FAITH in GOD. We are to CONTINUE in the FAITH. Acts 14:22. Rom. 10:17, "FAITH cometh by HEARING." IF ONE DOES NOT ATTEND CHURCH AND DOES NOT HEAR, HOW CAN ONE BE A CHRISTIAN? HE CAN NOT BE ONE! Eph. 4:5, "One FAITH, one LORD, one BAPTISM. ALL FROM GOD, none from man. Paul instructs us in II Tim. 2:22 to FOLLOW FAITH and in II Tim. 4:7 Paul states that he has KEPT THE FAITH.

James 2:17, FAITH without WORKS is DEAD. II Cor. 5:7, WALK by FAITH. I Tim 2:15, We are SAVED if we CONTINUE in FAITH (until death). We are to GROW in FAITH. II Thess. 1:3. Rev. 2:10, Be thou FAITHFUL unto DEATH. Paul states in Titus 1:9, HOLDING FAST the FAITHFUL WORD.(Do not let it slip away.) II Thess. 2:3 teaches us that there shall be a FALLING AWAY from faith. That will INDICATE the NEARNESS of the SECOND COMING OF CHRIST.

I Tim. 4:1, SOME SHALL DEPART FROM THE FAITH. Jesus

RAISES the QUESTION in Luke 18:8, "When the SON of MAN COMETH, shall He FIND FAITH on the EARTH? Therefore, it behoves us to EARNESTLY CONTEND for the FAITH ONCE DELIVERED UNTO THE SAINTS. Jude 3.

CHRISTIANITY demands that we OBEY CHRIST. If we do not we ARE NOT HIS FRIEND. John 15:14, "Ye are MY FRIENDS, IF YE DO whatsoever I command you." We MUST have His friendship. Why? Heb. 7:25, he INTERCEDES BETWEEN US and GOD for our INTEREST and BENEFIT. He proved His friendship by DYING on THE OLD RUGGED CROSS, that we might have and live the ABUNDANT LIFE. To prove our friendship to Him we must be as SALT. "YE ARE THE SALT of the EARTH." Matt. 5:13. Salt is a preservative.

Matt. 3:14, "Ye are the LIGHT OF THE WORLD." The reason that Africa has been called THE DARK CONTINENT is because it had not the Light of the Gospel - CHRISTIANITY.

CHRISTIANITY is entirely a new way of living. WOE unto the WORLD because of SIN. To the UNBELIEVER, to the NON-CHRISTIAN, the WORD TELLS US that such will SUFFER THE VENGEANCE OF FIRE. Jude 7.

Living as a CHRISTIAN after experiencing the NEW BIRTH is a LIFE TIME RESPONSIBILITY.

Titus 2:5, "WOMEN are to be KEEPERS AT HOME. As a result of women and mothers not fulfilling this scripture, often ends in "No Love at Home", delinquent children, divorce and so forth.

The order of HEADSHIP as given in God's Word is, GOD is the HEAD of CHRIST, CHRIST is the HEAD of MAN and MAN is the head of WOMAN. A true CHRISTIAN will ACCEPT and be GOVERNED by this HEADSHIP.

Notice some more scriptures a CHRISTIAN will obey. Deut. 22:5, "The woman SHALL NOT WEAR that which PERTAINETH unto a man, neither shall a MAN put on a WOMAN'S GARMENT, FOR ALL THAT DO SO ARE AN ABOMINATION unto the Lord thy God."

ABOMINATION means DISLIKED BY GOD. Many so called CHRISTIANS better start NOW, DISCARDING CLOTHES they are commanded NOT TO WEAR!

I John 2:16. For all that is in the world, the LUST of the FLESH, and the LUST of the EYES, and the PRIDE OF LIFE is not of the FATHER, but it is of the WORLD."

LUST - Bodily appetite, excessive desires.

LUST of the FLESH - Mind dwelling on sex.

LUST of the EYES - Looking, seeing, pausing to gaze at someone or something which turns the mind to evil thinking. John says this IS NOT OF THE FATHER, but is of the WORLD (DEVIL).

So is the PRIDE OF LIFE. PRIDE is an overly high opinion of

oneself, haughtiness and arrogance. Prov. 16:18, PRIDE goeth before DESTRUCTION. PRIDE is the opposite of HUMILITY. One addicted to PRIDE is OUT of the WILL OF GOD.

CHRISTIANS must ADORN themselves in MODEST APPAREL. Neither are they to wear GOLD or PEARLS or COSTLY ARRAY. (Which includes jewelry.) I Tim. 2:9. Neither can a beauty shop duplicate or improve on the beauty that God creates in an individual that lives a true, Christian life. There is no beauty in sin.

These two things recorded in the Book of Colossians, which if we want to be a CHRISTIAN we MUST DO. Col. 3:8, "But, now ye also must PUT OFF all these; ANGER, WRATH, MALICE, BLASPHEMY, FILTHY COMMUNICATION out of your mouth." In verse 9 of the same chapter, "LIE NOT one to another, seeing that ye have PUT OFF the OLD MAN (DEVIL) with his deeds." In Col. 3:10 "...and have PUT ON the NEW MAN, which is renewed in knowledge after the image of him that created him. In Col. 3:12-14, PUT ON, therefore, as the ELECT of God, holy and beloved, BOWELS OF MERCIES, KINDNESS, HUMBLENESS of mind, MEEKNESS, LONGSUFFERING; FORBEARING one another and FORGIVING one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: EVEN AS CHRIST FORGAVE YOU, SO ALSO DO YE." And above all these things, PUT ON CHARITY (love) which is the bond of perfectness.

Rom. 2:16, "The day will come when God shall judge the secrets of men. ARE YOU PREPARING FOR THAT DAY?

Conclusion

The real purpose in living a Christian life is to make sure we are ready to meet God. Amos 4:12. Paul tells us in Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this, the JUDGMENT." When Christ shall judge all nations, He shall separate His sheep from the goats. He will say to the sheep, "Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." Then He shall say unto them on the left hand, "Depart from me, ye cursed into everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels." READ MATT. 25:31-46.

That will be a great day for a true Christian.

It will be a terrible day for the unbeliever. How will the non-Christian answer the question raised in I Cor. 15:3a, "WHY STAND YE IN JEOPARDY EVERY HOUR?" JEOPARDY is defined as great danger or risk. The penalty for living in sin is DEATH. The reward for living as a Christian is Eternal Life.

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WILT THOU BE MADE WHOLE?

John 5:6

Two things are implied in the question. First, that THE DISEASE IS CURABLE; for our dear Saviour would not trifle with us, nor deceive us. The case is indeed desperate with regard to our own ability, and with regard to the sufficiency of all creatures.

"The help of man and angels join'd
Could never reach our case;
Nor could we hope relief to find
But in His boundless grace."

But there is hope in Israel concerning this thing, and nowhere else. But while all others address the sinner in vain, and in withdrawing say,"Help is not in me," He - Blessed be His Name! - comes forward bringing health and cure, saying, "I will come and heal him." Oh, how many have experienced the efficacy of His cross and grace, who are now before the throne! How many are there now living on earth who are witnesses for Him! For though not free from infirmity, though they complain of inward corruption, yet they are NEW creatures! Old things have become new! Yet they are walking by faith, having their conversation in heaven, looking for that blessed hope.

Secondly, it is here implied that WILLINGNESS TO BE CURED is essential to recovery. This cure is not forced upon any, neither is it accomplished by an operation of which we are insensible, or by a charm. The method of cure is one which requires thought, conviction, recollection, inclination, and choice. There is no deviation from this, even in the work of the Spirit itself.

The way He heals is by opening the eyes of the understanding, and showing us what is the hope of our calling, and what is the glory of the riches of His inheritance. He "works in us" "to will and to do." He draws, and we run after Him. His way is, by a divine influence, to make us realize our need of the blessing: to lead us to prize it, to long for it, to seek after it. Then the attainment will render us both blessed and grateful. Thus Mary, we are told, chose the good path which should not be taken from her. "He that feareth the Lord him shall He teach in the way." What way? The way he shall choose.

"Wilt thou be made whole?"

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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SIXTY YEARS AGO

June 1, 1934

OUR MOTTO, OUR WATCHWORD, OUR AIM

J.F. Britton

Three inestimable virtues of spiritual value, hence they are the three distinguishing characteristics, or goals, of the church of Christ established in the world. Therefore the church is like the gulf stream that flows in the ocean, it is in the ocean, but not of the ocean; neither does it mingle its waters with the waters of the ocean. And so, the church is in the world, but it is not of the world; and should not mingle with politics, nor participate in secret organized societies, nor any other worldly organization.

"My kingdom is not of this world," said Jesus. Hence His church is a divine and foreordained institution. And the mission of the church is to save men and women from their sins; not in their sins. And so in Rev. 18:4, comes the pathetic crying call, "Come out of her, my people, that ye be not partakers of her sins, and that ye receive not of her plagues." Therefore the purpose of this article is to consider the merits and importances of those three "virtues" at the head of this article.

"Motto" is defined as follows: "an expressive word or pithy sentence enunciating some guiding principle, rule of conduct, or the like" (Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary)

So we see that motto denotes and signifies an upward and onward look and movement toward that high plane of spirituality; of a "life hid with Christ in God." Where superiority and where excellence dwells; where the wicked cease from troubling and the weary are at rest. Thank God, and praise His holy name, for our motto.

"Watchword," 1. "A secret password. 2. A rallying cry or maxim," which denotes, 1. A brief statement of a practical principle or proposition. 2. A self-evident truth." (Funk and Wagnalls Dictionary)

The reader should not get confused here; the secret, referred to in the above definition is interpreted and clarified as follows: "If our gospel be hid, it is hid to them that are lost; in whom the God of this world hath blinded the minds of them which believe not; lest the light of the glorious gospel of Christ, who is the image of God, should shine unto them." (II Cor. 4:3-4.) So we see that the "Mystery of Godliness" is a secret to the unbelievers.

Let us still continue to consider the import of "Watchword." In that last burning and urging commission, Jesus said, "Go ye therefore, and teach all Nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen." (Matt. 28:19-20.)

Could there be a more practical, definite, and positive proposition and commandment, to reach out, and move out in the spirit of evangelistic work of saving souls, for whom Christ has died? This

should inflame the church and bring desire to respond to that divine mandage, "Go ye."

"Throw out the life-line across the dark wave,
There is a brother whom someone should save;
Somebody's brother! oh, who, then will dare
To throw out the life-line, his peril to share?
Throw our the life-line! Throw out the life-line;
Someone is drifting away;
Throw out the life-line! Throw out the life-line,
Someone is sinking today."

Thank God and praise His holy name for "Our Watchword," "Go unto all the world and preach the gospel."

"Our Aim." Be it our constant aim to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience. This is the third "virtue" under consideration in this article, and it denotes and signifies a constant growth in sanctification, holiness and spirituality attained through faith and obedience in the vicarious merits of Christ. "Till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ." (Eph. 4:13.)

Hence we should bless God and praise His holy name for a church whose "delight is in the law of the Lord; and in His law doth He meditate day and night." (Ps. 1:2.) And whose greatest and highest aspiration is to glorify our blessed Lord, here in the world, and to finish the work that has been assigned to her to do; that when the life's work of the church has been finished, the Lord may glorify the church with immorality and eternal joy, where we can sing "The Songs of Moses and the Lamb," throughout the ceaseless ages of a never ending eternity. Amen.

THE DANGERS OF SYNCRETISM

Jeremiah 7:9-10, "Will ye steal, murder, and commit adultery, and swear falsely, and burn incense unto Baal, and walk after other gods whom ye know not; And come and stand before me in this house, which is called by my name, and say, We are delivered to do all these abominations?"

Syncretism is a fairly new theological word that means to mix true Christianity with pagan worship and practices. Many of the teachings of Roman Catholicism have come into being because of this practice. This type of worship is also very prevalent in various foreign countries.

As dangerous as these false religions are, there is a subtle type of syncretism that is far more dangerous, in our opinion. This is adopting the ways of the world and mixing them with Christianity.

The Ministers of the modern, earthly church steals the glory of God by denying that Jesus Christ is the only way to Heaven. They deny that He is the virgin born Son of God, that He lived a sinless life and that He resurrected bodily from the grave. They teach that Christianity is a way, perhaps even the best way, to meet the requirements of God.

Many of the modern, earthly church have their hands full of blood by giving their approval to abortion, which is murder, except when the life of the mother is in danger, which happens rarely.

The earthly church may never fully recover from the damage done by proven adultery by respected church leaders and ministers of the Gospel. Reports are surfacing almost weekly that adultery and fornication are as great problems in the professing Christian world as they are in the secular realm.

There was a time when it was rare to hear of a professing Christian telling a lie. In our modern world the church seems to have lost its conscience in this area. Church leaders will lie to cover up a scandal. Some lie to get a better position of authority. Some swear falsely, which is to lie, to cover up their misdeeds.

The modern, earthly church has burned incense to Baal. Baal was originally a name given to various false gods. However, Bible scholars believe it was finally the name given to the Semitic storm-god Hadad, who was said to reign as king of the gods on a high mountain far to the north. Ordinarily, the worship of Baal was carried on in conjunction with that of a female consort, such as Asherah. The worship often included such debasing practices as sacred prostitution, homosexuality, self-mutilation, and other orgiastic rites. (adapted from THE LAYMAN'S BIBLE ENCYCLOPEDIA) As revolting as it may be, this is a perfect picture of the practices found within the modern church. If things continue as they are, to be honest, many denominations will have to change their names to the Churches of Baal!

The earthly church seems to be not only walking but running after other gods, whom they know not. The god of popular sports, music and entertainment of various sorts is worshiped by a large part of christendom. The idols (a name accepted by modern society) of these worldly enterprises are accepted into holy worship and encouraged to take leading parts without forsaking their worldly entanglements.

Can you hear the followers of syncretism boast, "We are delivered to do all these abominations?" We are not bound by rules and regulations of a church, they say. So called freedom in Christ has grown into the monster of Baal worship!

There are those who would have you believe that following the plain way of life is a form of syncretism. But where has laying aside the practices of our forefathers led those who have chosen to do so? Are they closer to Christ or closer to Baal worship?

My friend, if you are reading this and have never come to the reality of knowing Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior, nor been redeemed by His precious blood, nor experienced trine, immersion baptism, won't you accept this today? He is the only way to Heaven. As the Church may we be bold in holding to these truths and beware of the dangers of syncretism.

Brother James M. Hite
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PSYCHOTHERAPY - THE RELIGION OF SELF

Larry Thomas

Psychotherapy - that branch of psychology that attempts to understand man and chart for him a course of change - fails miserably at both. This conclusion was not reached by reading a book or two that debunks this pseudoscience, but rather from years of careful study and research.

When I became a Christian, I wanted nothing more than to help people find the joy and peace I had found in Christ. So while I began my study of God's Word, I also pursued a course of study in psychology.

Acts vs. Adler

I studied the doctrines of Acts and Adler, Matthew and Maslow. I assayed the words of Jesus and Jung. The more I compared them, the more contradictory I found them to be. Eventually, I was compelled to reject psychotherapy because it was theory, not science; its foundational beliefs were diametrically opposed to the tenants of the Christian faith; and it was leading men away from complete dependence on God.

Let me make it clear that I only rejected psychotherapy and its underlying psychologies. I did not dismiss the scientific areas of psychology such as education or environmental psychology. These disciplines conform to the standard scientific method of observing, recording data, reaching conclusions and developing testable, verifiable theories. The psychotherapy arm of psychology has not demonstrated the "predictability" necessary in the true science. That's not hard to understand when you realize there are more than 250 different theories of personality. Supporters of psychological counseling continue to respond to criticism of psychological counseling as if the entire field has been criticized. They often use the more scientific areas of psychology to justify the pseudo-science of personality theories and counseling psychology.

A growing number in the mental health industry are admitting that psychology (the study of the soul) is the venue of the theologian, not the therapist. Nobel Prizewinner Richard Feynman says "psychoanalysis is not a science" and is "perhaps more like witchdoctoring." Another observer sees "psychoanalysis as a religion hidden beneath scientific verbiage" and as a "substitute religion for both practitioner and patient." Psychiatrist Thomas Szasz, widely published professor at New York University, writes, "It is not merely a religion that pretends to be a science, it is actually a fake religion that seeks to destroy true religion."

And merely placing the overused adjective "Christian" before psychotherapy will not sanctify these unbiblical, mancentered philosophies. Two members of the Christian Association for

Psychological Studies have even admitted that "as yet there is not an acceptable theory, mode of research or treatment methodology that is distinctly Christian." To call psychotherapy "Christian" is as oxymoronic as saying someone is a Christian Buddhist.

Psychology, as religion, is founded on a dual presupposition which flies in the face of Christianity: man is basically good and his problems are caused by factors (usually heredity or environment) beyond his control. But the Bible, and even the current research from secular psychologists, refute these assertions.

Further evidence

Another confirmation of the religious nature of psychotherapy is the necessity of accepting, by faith, certain basic teachings. While the Christian's faith is in Jesus' atoning work and God's Word, the psychologist places his faith in the basic belief systems of his particular mentor, be it Freud, Jung, Rogers or Skinner.

The unscientific, unbiblical and unverifiable beliefs of these men constitute a religious creed rather than a scientific theorem. The tenets are merely opinions of unregenerated men who were often self-proclaimed anti-Christians, occultists or both. These opinions are not found in, nor are they consistent with, the infallible, unchangeable and irrefutable Word of God. It escapes me how "Christian" psychotherapists can expect to build up members of the body of Christ using the untempered mortar of such humanistic philosophies. No matter how many proof texts are stirred into this godless mixture, the wall will not stand (Ezekiel 13).

One other point about the religion of psychology. Like all other religions, psychotherapy has a god. The god is self. All psychotherapy's goals are centered in self. The objective of this branch of psychology is building up self, learning to love self and relieving the burden of guilt without dealing with sin. The contradictions of these self-oriented beliefs and God's decrees to deny self should be self-evident. The ways of self are opposed to God's ways. And although they seem right, they lead to death.

This preoccupation with self was foretold by Paul in his second letter to the young Timothy. He wrote:

"This know also, that in the last days perilous times shall come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, covetous, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholy. Without natural affection, trucebreakers, false accusers, incontinent, fierce, despisers of those that are good. Traitors, heady, high-minded, lovers of pleasure more than lovers of God. Having a form of godliness but denying the power thereof from such turn away."

(II Timothy 3:1)

These man-centered manifestations are all results of self-love. And as self-love increases, the love for others and for

Christ will decrease, just as Jesus said it would (Matthew 24:12): "And because iniquity shall abound, the love of many shall wax cold."

Yet, we are bombarded with teaching today that says we must love our selves if we ever hope to be able to love God or others. The lack of self-love, or self-esteem, is blamed for most of the ills both in and out of the church. Yet, research is continuing to show that there is little correlation between low self-esteem and crime, drug use or teen pregnancy. In fact, some research has indicated that pride, not a lack of self-love, is the problem with most troubled teens today.

I got a lot of criticism for saying what I'm about to repeat, but I think it is true. Despite the claims of psychologists and other "social scientists" that teen suicide is a direct result of low self-esteem, I'm more convinced that teens commit suicide because they hate their circumstances, but love themselves. To me, suicide is the ultimate expression of self-love. Because teens (and others too) are inconvenienced by their circumstances, they prefer to take their chances in the next world rather than submit to authority, deny their own lusts and conform to the laws of the land and of God. While doing some substitute teaching in a juvenile detention facility, I conducted an informal (and admittedly, unscientific) survey of the incarcerated youths. These teens (mostly ages 13-16), for the most part, are convicted of felonies. They are teenage veterans of the criminal justice system. Their psychologist claims that low self-esteem is the reason for their "problems." But back to my survey. I asked the students to evaluate themselves on the scale of 1 - 10. The average score was 7.3. It hardly seems their self-esteem is a problem.

But we have been psychologized in this country (maybe, brainwashed is a better word) to believe that we're okay. It's just our civilization that has warped us. We will live aimless, hopeless lives without the benefit of psychotherapy. That's nonsense to the world and blasphemy to the church.

The Word is Sufficient

Psychotherapy gives the illusion of efficacy, but relies more on personal testimonies than on scientific research for its validation. You may say, "Christianity does the same." True. But Christianity doesn't claim to be a science, nor does it claim to fulfill the conditions of science. It does, however, provide all the answers necessary for life and godliness (II Peter 1:3).

The greatest hindrance to discovering the truth and sufficiency of God's Word is not ignorance but the illusion of knowledge. The neognostic and vain babblings of the psychological community have misdirected the church for decades. The old tried and true path to freedom in Christ (Jeremiah 6:16) is being revealed once again by God's Spirit. The blood of Jesus Christ and the water of the Word are

sufficient to meet all of mankind's needs. Psychological additives can only dilute and pollute that already volatile and life-transforming mix.

Selected by Brother Edwin St. John

I know not what the future holds, but I know who holds the future.

Don't let your tongue get ahead of your walk.
Match you walk with your talk.

Sin must be forgiven or punished.

When we run to God, He embraces and forgives us.
If we run away from God, He punishes us.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

BUILT ON CHRIST

The true church is built on Christ;
He is their foundation stone.
If members hold true to Him,
They will never be alone.

But in the times we live in,
There is a falling away
From Christ, and their love for Him;
It seems some would rather play.

They are not counting the cost
Of what this means to their soul.
For when they lose that first love,
They have lost sight of their goal.

There is a need to repent;
Come, and do not walk alone
Lest Christ should come for His saints
And you are banned from His home.

Irene Stout

CHOICES

Today, people have become educated; therefore they believe they can make many, important, far-reaching decisions. They do not want to be told what choices they can or cannot make for themselves. They have accumulated much knowledge, but it is problematical whether they have garnered much wisdom along the way. The choices a person makes may affect not only himself, but also other people.

We expect our governmental leaders to make choices that affect many people. They have been elected or appointed to their current positions because supposedly by training and inclination they have the ability to make these decisions. Hopefully they will consider the profundity of their power, so they will counsel with the wisest of people before they do make these far-reaching decisions. It is hoped their decisions will not be made, merely for the sake of politics, but rather for the public good. The decisions they make will affect everyone in their realm, whether a township or the whole nation, or even the whole world.

Even in individual choices, others are affected. Parents make decisions that affect all members of their families. Husbands and wives make decisions, too-often unilaterally, that affect each other and their relationship. Children make decisions that can reflect upon their families. Choices made concerning finances can affect the whole family, for poor financial planning can affect where and how a family lives. If poor health practices are chosen, a family may be devoid of a father, who can provide. The work ethic of an individual can affect his fellow employees as he chooses to be diligent or lax in his job. So everyone makes choices that affect more than just themselves.

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Men have accepted the humanistic theory that man is the captain of his own destiny. He is able to choose as he wills, without regard to others or God. They do not want to be told by anyone what choices they should make., They have become headstrong and stubborn, desiring help from no one. Because of their new intellectual superiority, they have made choices that really belong to God. Now they make choices involving life itself.

The first choice that they have taken to themselves is the choice of continuing or terminating a pregnancy. The conception and birth of a child is not totally understood by those who have studied this miracle. These newly empowered have taken the choice of whether that developing life will come to birth or not, away from God, who gave the spark of life. This choice affects the lives of several people, not just the mother, but the father, and certainly the fetus, most of all. Other members of the family will be deprived of the life and love of that unborn child and society will miss the contributions that person could have made during his lifetime.

On the other end of life, these same people have opted to make choices that are not theirs. When life has extended over a lifetime of several decades, the body is often less hearty than when young. Because care of the elderly is expensive and time-consuming, many would suggest their lives be terminated. Rather than wait for the time that God has chosen for their earthly departure, it becomes more convenient to bring an end to their lives.

Some interesting questions might be raised as we consider this subject. Who will make this choice for all of the elderly. What criteria will be used to determine who is to live and who is to die? Which diseases will be deemed incurable? What social position must the person have to avoid this decision being made for him? What will be the difference between a society that practices abortion and euthanasia and the Holocaust of Nazi Germany?

This modern humanism is nothing but the age-old desire of Satan to be equal with God. He has tried since before time to elevate himself to deity, but has failed. After years of leading men into various sins, he has in these last times chosen to prod men into self-promotion, Men have promoted themselves into being gods. They have tried to make the choices that are God's not theirs. With modern technology and social immorality, men have chosen to do what men in other eras knew they could not do. Now that such deeds are technically possible, they have lost the morals to control them.

The best choice a person can make is to choose God's way. Submitting to God's will is the best choice. Have you made that choice?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

when GAY means SAD

"America the Beautiful" is far from that in the 1990's. Oh yes, the landscape is awesome. God has blessed us beyond measure with His creative hand on this part of planet earth. All indications are that the United States is rapidly becoming a homosexually tolerant society. Under the terms "human rights" and "freedom" our society is marching into great danger in what God calls immorality and an abomination and for which He totally destroyed two of the largest and most creative cities in Bible times.

Let me say up front that these individuals are not our enemies. We must continue to pray for them because God created them and they are still "in process"...not lost to the truth until the last breath is taken. But, please realize, every society that has endorsed and embraced homosexuality as an optional life style has experienced great problems. To overturn God's moral codes is one of the ultimate dangers and will lead to His wrath.

II Timothy 3 teaches us that homosexuality will be part of the buildup of the "perilous and evil times" of the last days. It says, "people will be without natural affection, unholy, despisers of those that are good, traitors, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." Without natural affection refers to sexual perversion...homosexuality. I believe that our country could approach the degenerative state of Sodom. The only hope available is to turn from this sin and come back to a belief in the definitions that God gives to this unnatural affection.

"Gay," is a term that has always meant fun. We love to be around people who smile, laugh and enjoy the blessings of God. But "gay" in the context of homosexual means pain from sexually transmitted diseases and separation from families, the church and God's blessing. We may have "gay rights"...but there is no right in being gay.

This sin is as old as man. It was first recorded and told in the story of Lot. In fact, the word SODOMY comes from his ancient city which was filled with this sin.

It was widespread among Egyptian pharaohs. By the 8th century B.C., the prophet Isaiah spoke out against the leaders of Israel just before they went into captivity...warning that they would incur the wrath of God because they not only practiced the sin of Sodom but were flagrantly open about it. Isaiah said, "Woe unto their soul." God was to invoke His judgment on their nation because of homosexuality. One of the great sins of the Hebrew people at the time of Nebuchadnezzar was sodomy.

The Greek culture, just a few hundred years before Christ, was full of "gays." In fact, Greek warriors spent much of their lives away

from home and it was felt that sodomy helped to produce great battlefield valor since they would fight fiercely to protect their partners.

In Rome, out of the first fifteen emperors of that society, fourteen of them were homosexuals.

We could follow this movement right on up to our day but that is not necessary. What is necessary is to understand that God judged all of these individuals and all of these societies and they were all ultimately destroyed. God hates sexual sin and it is always judged in some way...either by elimination of the society or by allowing diseases to eat away at those who practice it.

Clearly, homosexuality is ungodly, vile and against nature. It inevitably leads to a "reprobate mind." A person can not be a Christian and practice this homosexual life style. This violates God's purpose for His people...to be called out, pure, white, without spot and blemish.

So how about a former homosexual...can he be a part of Christ's Body? Of course he can. If he repents from this sin and changes his lifestyle to that which emulates the life of Jesus...he can be delivered from the judgment and the ramifications of this sin. The Church is made up of former thieves, liars, adulterers and sinners of all kinds but God has made provision for all of us to be renewed in Him when we accept Him, His way and are washed in the waters of baptism. God gives eternal life even though we are deserving of eternal death.

Let us graphically examine the Word of God. A practicing homosexual is not nor can be a Christian. The Church can be tainted by this sin and it will be in line for God's judgments. We must maintain our purity at all costs. Jesus gave His life for our salvation and to allow us to be freed from sin...and He taught, "Thy sins be forgiven thee...go and sin no more."

May God give us the special understanding of how to love the sinner and hate the sin. May He give us a true understanding that "gay is sad"...and help us to be Christ-centered, Christ-obsessed and fully happy in Him.

Brother Len Wertz

THEY SHALL TAKE HOLD OF THE SKIRT OF HIM THAT IS A JEW...

"...even shall take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you: for we have heard that God is with you." Zechariah 8:23.

"If ye know these things, happy are ye if ye do them." These people

knew about the Jews, and their knowledge was effective because it constrained them to "take hold of the skirt of him that is a Jew, saying, We will go with you. This is a simple but striking expression. We have seen a dear little infant, when he wanted the attention of his mother, pulling at her clothes. When a child has been walking along with his father, and fearing being left behind, he not only cries, but lays hold of his coat. When the cripple had been healed at the beautiful gate of the temple, he held Peter and John, and was afraid to let them go. Perhaps he dreaded a return of his former misery. In doing so he said, "You shall not go, and if you do, I will go with you." So it is here. It shows conviction - a wishing to be among them and to be of them. Ah, says one of them. I see they are rich. They are happy. Oh, that I was with them in glory everlasting! I see that they are traveling, and they are bound for that very country which I long to enter. I must join them. Will they receive ME into their number? God is with them, and it is God I now want. I have been living without Him in the world, but I can live without Him no longer. It is God I now want: His favor, His presence, the comforts of His Blessed Holy Spirit. What can I do without God? If I find prosperity in the world, my prosperity will destroy me. And what can I do with adversity, if it should come upon me, without God? What shall I do if I have no God when I come to die? Before this, other things and other companions drew the man. But, as the apostle says, "If any man be in Christ he is a new creature." He has new views, new feelings, new hopes, new pleasures, new aversions, and NEW companions. How much depends upon associations. While the "companion of fools will be destroyed", "he that walketh with the wise shall be wise." He that chooses good men for his companions will have God as his Guide, Guardian, and Comforter, and Portion in the land of the living. We shall have fellowship with them while we live, and when we come to die we may say, as a good man once said, "I am going to change my place, but not my company." Death will take us to our home. To the general assembly and church of the first-born, whose names are written in heaven where:

"For us our elder brethren stay,
And angels beckon us away,
And Jesus bids us come.

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ACCOUNTABLE TO GOD

Romans 13:8, "Owe no man any thing, but to love one another: for he that loveth another hath fulfilled the law."

Romans 14:12, "So then every one of us shall give account of himself to God."

We recently read of a situation where the government was demanding that a church give back a substantial amount of money that a couple contributed before filing for bankruptcy.

The first question that came to our mind after reading the account was, Should a christian allow themselves to get into a financial situation where there is a need to file for bankruptcy? The couple involved in the account were in business for themselves. We are not and never have been self employed. Therefore we do not have the ability to sit in judgment. However, we are aware of the fact that credit cards and easy loans from those who charge high interest rates has brought financial havoc to a large portion of the population at large, especially here in America.

It is our understanding that there are usually other alternatives to filing for bankruptcy. In the first place when we become aware of a financial problem we should take every effort possible to cut back where we can. If you are in business, or even if you are not, and find yourself in financial difficulty we believe it would be using wisdom to consult a christian who is an expert in financial matters to help you resolve the matter.

If an individual should be forced to file for bankruptcy, and we strongly feel that this should be a last alternative, does this relieve the individual of the responsibility of repaying the debts owed in full? God says, "Owe no man any thing," and we believe this is exactly what He means!

A second question that comes out of this situation is, Should we give to the church first or pay our debts? We read in Philippians 4:19, "But my God shall supply all your need according to his riches in glory by Christ Jesus." Some interpret verses like this to mean that we give to God first and then He will supply all of our needs. We agree with this type of thinking. However, the problem is we often confuse our NEEDS with our GREEDS! We are of the opinion that those who teach that it is God's will for all Christians to be rich are false teachers. We would not be dogmatic or judgmental on our stand, but we personally believe to not pay an honest debt is the same as stealing. We are aware that we are not to rob God but God is not in need of earthly riches as are those we do business with. In saying this, we are aware that the church needs financial income to survive. But we seriously question if God is pleased with filling the church coffer while leaving personal debts unpaid.

A third question that could arise out of this situations is, Does the government have the right to demand a church to give back money contributed to it? This brings us to the age old Church-State relationship debate. As we have said before, it seems strange to us that many do not want the government involved in church issues but

they want the church to dictate what the government should do. The recent decisions of government that are in direct opposition to the word of God has caused many to re-think their stand on such things as voting. The plain church, as a whole, is losing their separation from the world. To get involved in politics is just another step in this direction. As far as the government getting involved in situations such as this, we believe if a law is broken the government has the right to intervene. The Scriptural teaching that we must obey God rather than man is mis-used probably more often than it is rightly applied.

Last of all we shall give account of ourself to God. With the lying, stealing, cheating and sexual impropriety that is present in the modern church we believe the government has every right to get involved. Yet a far greater judgment will be met when those guilty stand before God if they do not repent and turn from their evil ways. We can make excuses as to why we do not pay our debts owed while here on earth, but there will be no excuse at the time we stand before our Maker for our willful sins we commit.

Yes, we are accountable to God for the things done in the flesh. But if we sincerely call upon Him, accept the gift of His Son, Jesus Christ, the shed blood on Calvary that is symbolized in the triune immersion baptism, and strive to live a life of obedience we will be free of condemnation on the day of judgment.

Brother James M. Hite
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SIXTY YEARS AGO
June 15, 1934
WHAT SHALL I PREACH ON?
D.E. Steele

That is just what many ministers are saying. Why? Are they really at a loss what to preach on or have they come to the place where they will not allow the Holy Spirit to guide them?

We need never run out of material to preach on if we use the saving gospel, but if we just try to please our hearers we may.

A minister once asked me what he should preach on and I told him the "Doctrine of the church." He said that was run into the ground long ago by our old ministers. I say it can not be preached enough. Paul says (II TIM. 4:2) "Preach the word; be instant in season, out of season; reprove, rebuke, exhort with all longsuffering and doctrine."

I don't think we are ever told to cease preaching. When we look about us in all walks of life we can readily see the gospel could be

taught more. If instead of preaching about prohibition, or what they are doing in legislature or some other country or state, they would turn to Corinthians, Ephesians, Colossians, Romans, Timothy or some of those books and would preach a good old fashioned gospel sermon the world have a better chance to grow better instead of worse.

Jesus tells us (Matt. 28:19-20) "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you: and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world. Amen."

This very clearly cites us to the New Testament works because he never commanded us to do anything before. Some say we preach too much on one subject such as dress and not enough on other subjects. Perhaps we do dwell on this subject considerable, but do we not need it? If a boy in school is behind in reading it's a cinch the teacher is not going to coach him extra in English or some other subject the pupil is good in, they are going to teach reading to this pupil especially. That is the way with us. We are behind on this certain thing of dress. We are too much like the world and Jesus says we should be meek and lowly creatures, known from the world, be a separate people. How are we when we keep on dressing like them, living like them and do as they do and all? We can not be meek and lowly dressed as the richest bankers, lawyers or doctors. There must be a distinction and we know the proud like to look good or better than the other person. The Christian people must be reminded of this weakness over and over again.

I feel that if we, the Dunkard Brethren, are going to stand for the whole truth as the church did 50 years ago and even not that long ago, we are going to have to preach the whole gospel of Jesus Christ and not back down on any of it because we know it is the way to salvation. We should all want to be able to say as Paul said in II Tim. 4:6-8, "For I am now ready to be offered, and the time of my departure is at hand. I have fought a good fight, I have finished my course, I have kept the faith: Henceforth there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love his appearing."

We should also think of those beautiful mansions He has prepared for us over there, and strive harder to gain admittance there. May we all strive harder for the cause of Christ this coming year and bring more souls to Him and live better lives ourselves.

May God bless the efforts of the Dunkard Brethren in proclaiming His gospel.

LIVING EPISTLES

I am my neighbor's Bible;
He reads me when we meet;
Today he sees me in my house;
Tomorrow on the street.

He may be relative or friend;
Or slight acquaintance be;
He may not even know my name;
But he is reading me.

I am my mailman's Bible;
He reads me every day;
What he puts in my mail box
Shows who o'er me hold sway –

It may be by the letters,
Or magazines I read;
But he can tell my character
By things on which I feed.

I am my children's Bible;
They read me every day;
The way I dress; the way I act;
And by the things I say.

They know whether I am sincere
(E'en though to church I go)
In love's obedience to God—
Indeed my children know.

-Author Unknown
Selected by Brother Paul R. Myers

GETTING A COMPLETE EDUCATION

If I learned my ABC's, can read six hundred words per minute, and can write with perfect penmanship, but have not learned how to communicate with the Designer of all language,

MY EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

If I have memorized addition facts, multiplication tables, and

chemical formulas, but have never disciplined myself to hide God's Word in my heart.

MY EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

If I can classify animals by their family, genus, and species and can write a lengthy scientific paper that wins an award, but have not been introduced to the Maker's purpose for all creation,

MY EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

If I can recite the Gettysburg Address and the Preamble to the Constitution, but have not been informed of the hand of God in the history of our country,

MY EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

If I can play the piano, the violin, six other instruments, and can write music that moves men to tears, but have not learned to listen to the Director of the universe and worship Him,

MY EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

If I can run cross-country races, star in basketball, and do one hundred push-ups without stopping, but have never bent my will to do God's will,

MY EDUCATION IS NOT COMPLETE.

However , if one day I see the world as God sees it and come to know Him Whom to know is life eternal, and glorify God by fulfilling His purpose for me,

THEN, MY EDUCATION IS COMPLETE!

Selected from The Bulletin for Home Educators
in Treasure Valley by Brother Ken Johnson

TROUBLE

When trouble comes and every thing seems to go wrong, let us take our troubles to Jesus for He cares. Our Blessed Lord loves all His children very much.

We know, as His children, if we call upon Him, He will carry us over these trying times and give us that peace that passes all understanding.

Let each of us put Christ first in our lives. So many in this old world seem to have a lot of trouble. Each one's troubles always seem larger than anyone else's troubles.

We read that we are to cast our cares on Him for we know He is always ready and willing to help. There is nothing His mighty hand can't do. He is the one who is never too busy to listen to us. When we are lonely, He is near. If we put our trust in Him we will receive joy and peace while here below and a home in Heaven.

KEYSTONES

If the keystone is missing from the bridge (just that one little stone!), the whole bridge will fall down. It may not seem very important but it is.

In the same way, without Jesus, we will die in the traps of the devil. Jesus may not seem important, but He is.

Adam S. Lehigh

PERILOUS PASSAGE

One day, as a woman missionary, I was trekking in the heart of Central Africa when we came to a deep river which we had to cross. Unfortunately, the bridge had been washed away except for two poles which spanned it, high above the water.

I watched anxiously and admiringly as my porters crept over these poles with their loads. Finally it was my turn to cross and my head boy came back to escort me over. I looked at the rickety poles and then at the swirling waters beneath them, and turning to him I said, "I cannot possibly go over on those poles."

"I will help you, Ndona," said he, "if you will trust yourself to me I will get you safely to the other side."

So I set out in fear and trembling; the head boy walked backwards, holding my hands firmly, and I crept slowly after him. All went well until, nearing the center of our rickety supports I looked down at the rushing waters below, and immediately I became giddy and began to wobble. It seemed that nothing could keep me from falling in.

In desperation I cried, "I cannot take another step, I shall fall into the river."

Gripping me firmly, my head boy replied, "Ndona, look at me, only by looking at my face can I save you."

I looked up at him, and as I did so, the giddiness passed; I felt steadied and new courage came to me. Then we proceeded. I didn't take my eyes from his face for a moment until, at last, we reached the other side in safety.

Those who experience fear in the face of such physical difficulties as I have experienced are, possibly, few in number, but most of us do, however, encounter even greater difficulties and dangers in the moral and spiritual realm. You, who read this, may be facing such difficulties right now. Beneath you rush, as it were, the waters of sin and temptation, waiting to suck you into their ugly depths and destroy you. You may even have reached the point where you are afraid to go on.

But you need not fall. God in His mercy has provided a Saviour for you. He gave His own Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, to die on the cross for you, and there He atoned for your sins. (John 3:16 and Romans 5:11). He rose again from the dead, and today He sits at God's right hand as our Advocate and great High Priest (I John 2:1; Heb. 4:14-15).

The Bible says, "Look unto me and be ye saved...for I am God, and there is none beside me."

(Isaiah 45:22). This is an invitation to you, whosoever you are, to look by faith to Christ for His wonderful salvation. For He knows you and wants to save you if you will but put your trust in Him.

Without Him you will eventually fall into the dark waters of eternal death, for God has said, "The soul that sinneth, it shall die." (Ezek.18:20) and "after death; the judgment." (Hebrews 9:27). But "the gift of God is eternal life." (Romans 6:23).

Looking away from the swirling waters and up into the face of my head boy, and trusting in him, meant my safety in crossing that river. So, as you turn away from the world with its temptation, and look into the lovely face of Jesus Christ, our redeemer, and trust Him, it will mean your soul's salvation.

Years I spent in vanity and pride,
Caring not my Lord was crucified,
Knowing not it was for me He died
On Calvary.

By God's Word at last my sin I learned;
Then I trembled at the law I'd spurned,
Till my guilty soul imploring turned
To Calvary.

Now I've given to Jesus everything,
Now I gladly own Him as my King,
Now my raptured soul can only sing
Of Calvary.

Oh, the love that drew salvation's play!
Oh, the grace that brought it down to man
Oh, the mighty gulf that God did span
At Calvary.

Mercy there was great and grace was free,
Pardon there was multiplied to me;
There my burdened soul found liberty—
At Calvary.

"Look at the Saviour on Calvary's tree,
See how He suffered for you and me.
Hark! while He lovingly calleth to thee,
Look! and thou shalt live."

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

SNOW-BOUND

J.H. Moore

On a certain Sunday morning, a few years ago, when the services in my home congregation closed, there was a raging snowstorm without. It looked like the beginning of a regular blizzard. At 3 P.M. I had an appointment at Batavia, fourteen miles away. The place could be reached by an electric line. A wanderer was to be restored to fellowship. The severity of the storm indicated that should I start out I might possibly reach the meeting, but would not be permitted to return until the blizzard was over. But duty said, Go, and go I did. The "go" is the preacher's marching order, and it is always in force when there is something to do in the interest of the kingdom.

At the appointed hour the meeting was opened with singing and prayer as usual. Without the storm was quite severe; it had grown worse ever since it commenced, with no prospect of letting up. In the little congregation at Batavia there were, all told, thirty-two members, and over twenty of them were present at the meeting. There are not many congregations that can make a better showing when there is a regular blizzard on hand. I was glad I went, for I do like to meet with people who can brave a storm to attend a members' meeting, or any other religious service.

It was announced for what purpose the meeting had been called. The brother who desired to return to the family of the Lord arose and told his own story. It was a touching story, and caused not a few tears to flow. The members voted unanimously in favor of receiving him back into the fold. The brother took his stand at a convenient place and the members came forward and received him. I always liked this way of doing. It reminded one of what we read in Luke 15, where the touching story is given concerning the returning prodigal. This is the way it was done on this occasion.

After this was over, a number of short speeches were made. Bro. Geo D. Zollers was present, and if anybody can rejoice over a returning prodigal it is Bro. Zollars. So his speech was full of encouragement. It was a Christian welcome from beginning to end. Then followed other talks. They were all speeches of welcome. What grand meetings we might sometimes have when wayward ones are restored to the fold, if there could be more addresses of welcome given! Next we had a season of prayer, and then the hour was ended. To me it was a real spiritual meeting, and everybody went away feeling that they were greatly blessed, and that they will be only the better for having attended that service.

The meeting over, the next thing for me was to get home. The blizzard was still raging and increasing in severity. It was Sunday, that is true, but I do not object to traveling on the Lord's Day when I am about my Father's business. And so it was on this occasion. The Father's business must not be neglected. So I started for home, but at the end of two miles my way was blocked. The snow had drifted; the cuts were full of the "beautiful", and the car would not be moved. My only resource was a hotel, for it happened to be in a city that I had to abandon further progress.

How to spend the evening was the question. When going from home, for even a short time, I usually put a book in my pocket to read, but on this occasion I forgot to provide myself with a book. I had time here to read a small volume. At the hotel I called for a bunch of paper. Seated at a table in the office, I took our my fountain pen and thus opened up my sanctum. Men stood around. Some talked. Others read aloud, and a few of them smoked. The environments were by no means favorable for literary work. But my pen started in at the beginning of this chapter and went on to the end.

I am not in the habit of writing on Sunday, but when one is snow-bound, and has no book to read, what better thing can he do! Had it not been for this particular experience, I probably would not have thought of telling about the good little meeting held in the midst of a blizzard. Nor would I have thought of telling how we sometimes receive an erring brother back into the fold. I might never have told of the speeches of welcome that were made. And this chapter for my book might never been written. It is an ill wind that blows no good.

The world usually pushes a man the way he makes up his mind to go.

God is greater than our circumstances.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1994

July 3 - Peter defends the Gentiles - Acts 11:1-18.

1. Why did Peter face opposition at Jerusalem?
2. What was the people's response when they understood God's plan for the Gentiles?

July 10 - Disciples Called "Christians" at Antioch - Acts 11:19-30.

1. What was taking place at Antioch?
2. What is the meaning and application of the title, "Christian?"

July 17 - Peter Delivered by an Angel; Herod's Death - Acts 12:1-25.

1. How did God answer the prayers of the church?
2. What sin did God judge Herod for?

July 24 - Paul and Barnabus sent to the Gentiles - Acts 13:1-13.

1. How were Paul and Barnabus chosen and sent as missionaries?
2. How did God deal with those that opposed His work?

July 31 - Paul Preaches to Jews at Antioch; Light to the Gentiles - Acts 13:14-52.

1. What method did Paul use to gain the interest of the Jews?
2. What did the preaching of the Truth cause to happen?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JULY 1994

July 3 - Sanctification - I Thess. 5:23, Exodus 19:1-25.

1. What are the three main steps of Salvation?
2. List some of the blessings of a sanctified life.

July 10 - God's Laws - Exodus 20:1-17.

1. How do the Ten Commandments apply to us today?
2. List some of the consequences of keeping and violating the Law of God.

July 17 - An Offering for God - I Cor. 16:12, Exodus 25:1-9, 35:20-29,
Mark 12:41-44.

1. What is the purpose of an offering?
2. What offering is of most value to God?

July 24 - Worshipping God - John 4:23-24, Exodus 33:1-23.

1. What is worship?
2. When and how should we worship God?

July 31 - God gives Wisdom - James 1:5, Exodus 35:30-35, 36:1-7, I Cor. 1:18-31.

1. What is wisdom and why is it so important to our life?
2. How can we increase our level of wisdom?

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

ROOTED AND BUILT UP IN HIM

Teach me yet more of thy blest ways,
Thou holy Lamb of God;
And fix and root me in the grace
So dearly bought with blood.

O tell me often of each wound,
Of ev'ry grief and pain;
And let my heart with joy confess,
From hence comes all my gain.

For this, O may I freely count
Whate'er I have but loss;
And ev'ry name, and ev'ry thing,
Compar'd with thee, but dross.

Engrave this deeply on my heart
With an eternal pen:
That I may, in some small degree,
Return thy love again.

GOD'S PATTERN

We live amongst people who worship and serve God in various ways. Each sets up his own notion of what is right and follows it. Each does what is right in his own eyes. He designs his own ideas of worship and service. What he says is right, is right. He is not about to be told, by anyone else, including the Church, or even God, through His Word, that his course is wrong. It is basically anything goes. There is no set standard that applies to all. Everyone does his own thing.

This philosophy reveals several things about those who hold it. They do not read nor understand the Bible. They either ignore it or they follow only what they feel to accept. They do not study nor understand what is required of them. They are rebellious, seeking their own ways. They do not accept the authority of God over their lives. They are proud and will not accept any adjustment in their attitudes. They will not be told what they must do.

This is not an altogether new thing. This attitude has been demonstrated throughout the history of mankind. There are several instances recorded in the Bible. Since the time of Adam and Eve's fall in the Garden of Eden, men have demonstrated their disinclination to be obedient to God.

Adam and Eve showed this tendency by listening to the serpent's pleas. This same attitude was duplicated in their son, Cain. His pride was injured when his sacrifice was not accepted by God. Although he could have corrected his error, by securing a living sacrifice from his brother, he didn't. Instead his jealousy caused him to slay his brother to deny his implication in the crime.

During the journey from Egypt to the Promised Land, there were many times when God's plan was frustrated. Some decided to

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challenge the authority of Moses and Aaron. Others decided to initiate a new form of worship. God dealt rather dramatically with these false leaders.

The sons of Eli, although priests, were anything but priestly. They quite openly perverted God's plan, for their own profit. Because of their wickedness, the Ark of God was eventually lost to the Philistines. A wrong spirit, a wrong attitude, a wrong service, a wrong way of doing can arise not only amongst the laity, but even amongst those appointed to be the leaders of God's people.

David was a man after God's own heart, but he made many mistakes and gave several occasions for God to be slandered by His enemies. He erred in his own life and in what he allowed his children to do. He also led his people in wrong ways.

A well known example of failing to heed God's express instructions led to the death of Uzzah. David and his subordinates wanted to bring the Ark to Jerusalem. Instead of men carrying the Ark by the staves, which went through the hoops set on each side, it was placed on a cart pulled by oxen. When it went through a rough place, the Ark began to slip. To prevent it from falling, Uzzah put forth his hand to catch it. He was immediately struck by God. The Ark was not to be handled as other objects were. What was to have been a great day became a day of mourning and self-examination for David. He had to realize he had erred by doing a good thing the wrong way. The Ark finally was returned according to God's instructions. A life had needlessly been lost because of disobedience. Time had been lost because a more convenient way had been sought. When David learned this lesson, the Ark was restored and they could worship as God had intended.

Today, the nature of man is the same. Many still seek to do what is right in their own eyes. To them it is more efficient to move the Ark by ox wagon than to have it carried by men. They are ever able to improve upon God's plan. It is easy to remove not only the old customs, but also the very directions of God.

Some of these commands of God, such as the handling of the Ark, seem so small. If we can not be trusted in the small, seemingly-inconsequential ways, how can we be trusted with the soul-saving doctrines concerning men's eternal souls? Noah was given very detailed instructions concerning the building of the ark. If he had failed to follow them explicitly, all would have been lost. Moses was given a very detailed pattern to be followed in building the Tabernacle. If he had not followed that pattern perfectly, he would have ended up with a tent that did not meet God's requirements. It behooves us to meet God's requirements.

THOUGH HE SLAY ME

Job 13:15a, "Though he slay me; yet will I trust in him:..."

There are those who teach that being a Christian does not carry any physical benefits with it. We are not in agreement with this type of thinking. Yet there is another school of thought that teaches that being a Christian make you immune to any type of troubles. This type of thinking is also unscriptural.

Like Job, a Christian may suffer the loss of family, possessions, and good health. Few of us will need to suffer as Job did. Yet most of us will face trials in this life.

In the light of this introduction we would once again like to make a few remarks using the familiar portion of Scripture found in Mark 8:34-35. "And when he had called the people unto him with his disciples also, he said unto them, Whosoever will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me. For whosoever will save his life shall lose it; but whosoever shall lose his life for my sake and the gospel's, the same shall save it."

The cross speaks of death. Death was a reality for those who chose to follow the Lord Jesus Christ in the early church. Jesus was preparing His followers for the persecution that would follow. The time may soon be upon us when we will have to be willing to lay our lives on the line to serve the true God. This is already true for Christians who live in countries where members of false religions control the government.

We also see a spiritual application in the teachings of our Lord. We must be willing to die to self. In a sense, this is perhaps harder than suffering martyrdom. If the time comes when we will have to die for our faith, we fear that many will not be prepared to do so because they have not died to self before this time.

"For what shall it profit a man, if he shall gain the whole world, and lose his own soul? Or what shall a man give in exchange for his soul?" These are usually directed to those who are unsaved. And there is a salvation message to be found therein. If you have not accepted the Lord Jesus Christ as your Lord and Savior and had the blood applied to your sins you are losing everything and have naught to gain. Riches and possessions will perish, but your soul will live throughout eternity in eternal rest or in eternal punishment.

But remember that these words were also given to Christ's disciples. Do we put things of this world before our Lord? Do we play the lottery in hope that we can become rich? Are we caught up in worldly pleasure in the form of professional sports, worldly music or the television set? To make serving the Lord not only the highlight of our lives but the reason for our every thought and action seems to be a type of death for some individuals.

"Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

Are we ashamed of our Lord Jesus Christ? Are we ashamed to bow our head and thank Him for our food in public? We do not say that we must pray audibly but we should certainly not be ashamed to. Do we witness of our love for Him and that we recognize Him as God and the Son when members of the cults knock on the door?

Are we ashamed of His words? Do we take a bold stand for biblical nonresistance? In this adulterous generation are we willing to take a stand against divorce and remarriage? In this sinful generation are we ashamed of our plain dress?

Can we truly say, "Though he slay me, yet will I trust in him?" Or are we only willing to serve God on our terms? Satan desires to bring discouragement through the trials of life. He desires to blind you with the pleasures of this life. He desires to destroy you through denial of the Lord Jesus Christ and the teachings of Holy Scripture.

We recognize that the struggles in life are real. We know that sickness, sorrow and family problems are not always easy to deal with. We recognize that the pressure put on us today to conform to the ways and ideals of this world is a real part of our lives. We recognize that a large portion of Christendom will tell us there is no need to deny ourselves. But our one desire in life should be that the Son of man (Jesus Christ) will not be ashamed of us. May our desire be to serve Him no matter what the cost.

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THE OLD OAK TREE

I remember a story in one of our classes, back in grade school, about an old oak tree, reputed to be well over one hundred years old.

There were several other different kinds of trees in the vicinity of the oak. Through the years, that tree withstood the tremendous forces of nature. Lightning struck it several times, cutting off branches, which marred the shape of the tree. The old oak recovered from its hurt from the lightening.

During its life time it was hit by a tornado, a whirling column of air, which was very destructive. While it suffered a lot of damage, the old oak lived on.

Years later a second tornado, much more powerful and destructive than the first, struck the area where the old oak was located. It uprooted many trees nearby, but the old oak remained standing erect and tall.

I want to compare the Apostle Paul to that old oak tree. He was a strong pillar in the early church, but not until after he was converted. He established many churches in many cities across the Roman Empire, including Rome, Corinth, Thessalonica, Galacia and others.

Under the oak tree, those who sought its shade and comfort on a hot day, were thankful that the tree was there.

Those who came under the Apostle Paul's preaching, received many spiritual blessings. He, did not fail to reprimand them when they disobeyed God's Word.

In his missionary work for Christ and the church, he was like that old oak tree. He endured many hardships and disappointments in life. We read in II Cor. 11:23-27, "Are they ministers of Christ? (I speak as a fool) I am more; in labours more abundant, in stripes above measure, in prisons more frequent, in deaths oft. Of the Jews five times received I forty stripes save one. Thrice was I beaten with rods, once was I stoned, thrice I suffered shipwreck, a night and a day I have been in the deep; In journeyings often, in perils of waters, in perils of robbers, in perils of mine own countrymen, in perils by the heathen, in perils in the city, in perils in the wilderness, in perils in the sea, in perils among false brethren; In weariness and painfulness, in watching often, in hunger and thirst, in fastings often, in cold and nakedness."

The Apostle Paul endured throughout all the times that Satan buffeted him. He, like the oak tree, was well rooted. He was firm, resolute, strong and vigorous.

He, Paul, gave good council to every professed Christian, as recorded in I Cor. 15:58, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye stedfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." The old oak tree is long gone, but Paul's example remains for each of us to follow.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, OH 44718

AS BRETHREN

"Finally, be ye all of one mind, having compassion one of another, love as brethren, be pitiful, be courteous: Not rendering evil for evil, or railing for railing: but contrariwise blessing; knowing that ye are thereunto called, that ye should inherit a blessing." I Peter 3:8-9.

After twenty years of this blessed Christian life, and after countless meetings in which we had a part, and after writing over two hundred Biblically based articles (to God be the Glory), we have arrived at a solid conclusion. The scriptures are perfectly capable of explaining themselves. What is it about the above scripture that defies our understanding? Why do we, who claim the Holy Ghost for our teacher and comforter, falter and stumble over such simple words as these? Love as brethren. Many discourses have been published endeavoring to clarify these, the simplest of statements.

When the Dunkard Brethren Church was formed I believe it was no accident that the word "Brethren" was retained. How important it is. The world knows we are Christians because of our love one for another. Love as Brethren. Brethren have common parents (in particular, a common father) and common ancestors and siblings. No people on this earth are closer than brothers who have overcome adversity. The church is a family of brethren (and sisters) with a common Saviour and a common salvation. We have family reunions every week. Our genealogy book is the Bible. We gather to memorialize our oldest brother, Jesus, who gave us all life everlasting by dying in our place.

In I John 3:16 it says, "Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren." Again, this statement is simple and crystal-clear. Yet why is it that so many fail to see the Holy Simplicity herein? In Paul's second letter to the Corinthians (11:3) he feared that their minds would be "corrupted from the simplicity that is in Christ."

Why are there false brethren? Why do brethren become overwhelmed with bitterness, jealousy, deceit, and envy? Does not love dictate that we compliment one another rather than, as is the style of today, compete with one another? Was it not the purpose of the plural ministry to see brethren working together in unity, rather than working apart?

The devil is a clever adversary. Let us not give in to him, but rather let us give honor and glory to the Lord, and love one another as Brethren.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

LAKEPORT FOLLIES

Floras Lake is a fairly large lake on the Oregon Coast with only a sand dune separating it from the Pacific Ocean. In 1908, some land developers planned to dig a canal through the dune and create a seaport by connecting the lake and ocean. They platted a city and called it "Lakeport."

Soon, about four hundred people moved to Lakeport with their heads full of visions about the future. Some of them were merchants eager to establish their businesses in a new and prosperous seaport.

Quickly, the "little village by the sea" grew into the largest town in Curry County. It had a three story hotel, a full-sized newspaper and a post office. The people were ready to make their fortunes — as soon as their ships came in.

A few years later, the hotel was rotting; the stores were forsaken and the people gone. Someone had discovered the lake was ten feet higher than the ocean. If they dug a canal, the lake would drain into the sea!

The story of Lakeport reminds me of these verses in James: "Go to now, ye that say, Today or tomorrow we will go into such a city, and continue there a year, and buy and sell, and get gain: Whereas ye know not what shall be on the morrow. For what is your life? It is even a vapour, that appeareth for a little time, and then vanisheth away." James 4:13-14.

Mortal men make mighty plans but they labour in vain when they ignore God's laws. (Including the law of gravity!) If we build our lives upon the word of God, our hope will never drain away.

Harold and Donna Kupp
Box 1165
Waldport, OR 97394

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 1, 1934
LOVE AND FORGIVENESS
Jeanette Poorman

My dear readers, in my weak effort, I wish to express a few thoughts on this subject hoping it will be of help to all. I feel that this is a good subject and much need of it in our churches.

I often wonder if we are as loving and forgiving as God is? Do we feel toward one another as little children do when they have a quarrel or say mean things about one another? They are just so forgiving that they forget all about their hard feelings and this is what we should do, for God says, "Lest ye become as a little child ye shall in no wise enter the kingdom of heaven."

My dear readers, this seems to me something worth while to think of. We may, lots of times, confess with our lips that we forgive our brother or sister, but if that old grudge still remains in our heart, we are without love. Let brotherly love continue. (Heb. 1:13.)

"This is my commandment, That ye love one another, as I have loved you. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (John 15:12-13.)

God knows our hearts and may he never let us feel content until our hearts are pure and clean.

"He that loveth not knoweth not God; for God is love." (I John 4:8).

"Beloved, if God so loved us, we ought also to love one another." (I John 4:11.)

Do we ever think and realize how often God forgives us, and what little we do in forgiving one another.

"For if ye forgive men their trespasses, your heavenly Father will also forgive you: But if ye forgive not men their trespasses, neither will your Father forgive your trespasses." (Matt. 6:14-15.)

We NEED more love in our churches today to accomplish what God wants us to. As we see the world growing worse and worse without love or mercy for one another, it makes us feel more the need of cleansing our hearts of old grudges if there be such and fill them with love and forgiveness, for it isn't just the outward appearance that counts, but what we have inside.

"If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen?" (I John 4:20.)

And so my dear readers, can we have love unless we forgive? These two words are very closely connected. We must have them both in our churches and in our homes as well. No home is a Christian home without love and forgiveness.

I think it would be a great help to us and our churches if we would just examine our hearts and see if we have any old grudge of ill feeling toward any of our brethren.

Praise God for his tender mercy, love and forgiveness.

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Good Old Time

J.H. Moore

I looked upon an old-time, but pleasing, picture. Two girls were seated on a large rug near the center of a large room. In front on them was the old fireplace, such as might have been seen in one of the Eastern or Southern States fifty years ago. The fire was burning brightly, and lighted up the entire room. At one side stood the long-handled frying pan and the great cook pot. The broom and tongs were near by, while the great churn stood farther away. The crane swung in the fireplace, ever ready to receive the great pot and suspend it over the fire. In front of the blazing fire lay seven fine apples, such as might be grown in any well-cultivated orchard. They were placed there to roast, one side at a time, and must needs be turned so as to get roasted through and through.

Probably hundreds of our aged readers will recall the time when they used to sit around the old fireplace to roast apples and to pop corn. Farther south chestnuts were added to the list. While the fire was doing its work, stories were related, riddles propounded, or the news of the day was told. Mother or father had something of interest to narrate, or the children had learned of something that proved interesting to listen to. Occasionally a short chapter in some old book was read, for seldom were newspapers seen in those days. Most people were too poor to afford even candles, and the light from the fireplace answered the purpose of lamp and furnace combined. And thus the evenings were spent most pleasantly and even profitably.

More might have been learned by the aid of books, but books were scarce and costly. More public meetings might have been held, but the neighbors lived, as a rule, some distance apart, and preachers were not often seen. After the roasted apples, nuts, and pop corn were disposed of, then all became composed. The great Book was taken from the mantel over the fireplace, a chapter read, and then there was earnest prayer. A half hour later the ashes were shoveled onto the fire, and then all was quiet. The family was in the land of dreams.

This way of living may not have been very hygienic, but it produced good results. It kept the boys and girls at home of nights. Mother was never heard singing, "O where is my boy tonight?" He was at home, and so was the father. There may have been other causes for heartaches, but there were no down-town troubles. Children, in these good old times, as we are in the habit of speaking, may not have known so much about books as the present generation of young people, but then they learned less of the current evils. They did not have the whole world to think about, with the sun, moon and stars thrown in, but they had the good and pure of a well-regulated home life for their mental as well as their soul training.

That kind of a life might not suit the present times so well, but it would be a blessing to have some of it mixed in with the present fast and careless way of living. Could we but have more of this old-fashioned home life, along with the fine educational advantages, what a noble generation of people might succeed the present one!

But that will not likely occur. With the generations of the past have gone their ways of living, and we must now labor to secure the best possible results from what we have at our command. It may be altogether possible that the young of today will, fifty years hence, look back and long for the good old times of their youth. Yes, the things we look upon as new, will by them be regarded as old. And so it goes. Our only comfort is to look forward to the time when the old shall pass away, and all things shall become new. So it is to the new that we are looking for happiness, after all. When we get over yonder, in the new world, we will no more long for the good old times in this world.

PREPARE TO MEET THY GOD

(Amos 4:12)

Irvine G. Senger

When we have work to do, we first prepare for it. Today we have a journey ahead of us. How many are prepared? You may say, "I do not know the way."

John 14:6: "Jesus saith unto him, I am the way, the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me." Proverbs 14:12 tells us: "There is a way which seemeth right unto a man, but the end thereof are the ways of death." You may say: "I let my conscience be my guide, and do the best I can." Dear friend, we have the Bible for our Guide. Be sure that we have THE Way, not just A way!

Let us turn now to John 5:39. Here we are told to: "Search the scriptures; for in them ye think ye have eternal life: and they are they which testify of me." I Thess. 5:21-11 reads: "Prove all things; hold fast that which is good. Abstain from all appearance of evil." We go to church and sing: "Oh, how I love Jesus". Do we really love Him? John 14:15 states: "If ye love me, keep my commandments." Then in John 3:3: "Jesus answered and said unto him, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born again, he cannot see the kingdom of God." In John 3:5: "Jesus answered, Verily, verily, I say unto thee, Except a man be born of water and of the Spirit, he cannot enter into the kingdom of God."

In Matt. 16:24 we find: "Then said Jesus unto his disciples, If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross, and follow me."

Are we faithful soldiers? Do we daily bear our cross? Or do we expect Jesus to bear the cross alone, and all the world go free? If we do not bear our cross, can we ever expect to wear a crown?

Eph. 2:8-9 tells us that: "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: Not of works, lest any man should boast." Truly, we do not have a thing to boast about. The Lord has done so much for us, and it is our greatest desire to spread the Gospel, and win souls for Him.

Eph. 6:13: "Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God..." How many of us have it? Are we ashamed of it? Mark 8:38 states: Whosoever therefore shall be ashamed of me and of my words in this adulterous and sinful generation; of him also shall the Son of man be ashamed, when he cometh in the glory of his Father with the holy angels."

My friend, what this world needs is JESUS! We need to learn that not a sparrow falls without God seeing it, and that the very hairs of our head are numbered. Then we will realize the great importance of walking the "straight and narrow" way.

In Hebrews 12:1 we read these words: "...let us lay aside every

weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us, and let us run with patience the race that is set before us." How many of us are holding on to worldly pleasures or some sin that will cause us to lose the race? How many of us are sitting back on the "stool of do nothing" while multitudes of souls are plunging headlong into hell? Don't we believe the Bible anymore? In Heb. 13:8-9 we find: "Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and forever. Be not carried about with divers and strange doctrines..."

In Matt. 28:19-20, Jesus said: "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost: Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and, lo, I am with you alway, even unto the end of the world. Amen." Jesus meant exactly what He said, and He requires us, as ministers, to preach the FULL Gospel. Jesus is not pleased to hear these mealy-mouthed sermons, all whitewashed, just to tickle your itching ears. You ought not to get mad, but thank God that I have given you the plain truth.

Remember the Parable of the Ten Virgins? All that the five lacked was oil. In Matt. 19:16-24, Jesus told the Rich Young Ruler, there was just ONE thing he lacked. My friend, what do you LACK? it was Peter who said to Jesus: "Thou shalt never wash my feet. Jesus answered him, if I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."

Remember, my friend, Jesus said in Matt. 28:18: "...ALL power is given unto me in heaven and in earth." Do you think that He will do more for you or I, than He would do for Peter?

Remember: "Today is the day of salvation!" We do not have the assurance of tomorrow! Prov. 27:1. May I again say, "Prepare to meet thy God!"

We sing: "How Beautiful Heaven Must Be" and we sing about: "Life's Railway to Heaven." Would it not be just as reasonable to believe there is a railway to hell, as there is to Heaven? Which will you have? Christ as your Conductor on Life's Railway to Heaven, or will you have the Devil as your engineer on that Hell-bound train.

Dear Friend: "Prepare to meet Thy God!"

OBITUARY

PETE LORENZ

Bro. Pete Lorenz, 74, Amboy, Indiana died at 6:10 A.M., May 7, 1994, at St. Vincent Hospital, Indianapolis, Indiana. He was born March 11, 1920 in Miami County, a son of Peter and Clara (Kendall) Lorenz. March 2, 1944 in Grant County, he married Lenora Shroyer, who survives. He was a retired farmer and retired from Dana Corporation in 1982. He was a member of Plevna Dunkard Brethren Church in Howard County. Also surviving are a son, David "Butch" Lorenz of Amboy, a daughter, Nancy Otto of Topeka, Indiana, a brother, Paul Lorenz of Encampment, Wyoming, three sisters, Opal

Sallie of Kokomo, Indiana, Elma Parker of Peru, Indiana and Almeda Strayer of Upland, Indiana, seven grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, a brother, three sisters and a great-grandchild. Services were held at the Plevna Church with Brothers Robert Carpenter and Lloyd Lorenz officiating. Burial was in the Mississinewa Cemetery in Wabash County.

LIFE GOES ON

They say life goes on
And it does;
But for those left behind
It will never be the same.
We'll miss his quiet presence,
His subtle influence.

The lives he touched were many,
His family, his Church, his friends.
And the memories he left behind
Will last forever.

Who can forget his rolling laughter,
And the stories he loved to tell!
All the flowers, the craftsmanship,
He left his mark on so many things
And so many lives.

They say life goes on
And it does;
But for him it will never be the same.
Can't you see him up there in heaven?
He's all healed now.
The pain that plagued for so many years
Is gone.
He's not tired now,
And there are no more heartaches.

Can't you see him up in heaven now?
He's loving the beautiful creations.
The jewels, the gardens, and the mansion
Designed just for him.
And he's in the presence of his loving Savior!

Praise God Almighty — life goes on!

Sister Karen Birt

NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE

Following General Conference, the General Mission Board was reorganized, please make checks payable to the new Treasurer, Bro. Dale Jamison. Continue to send your contributions to the Secretary, Bro. Robert Carpenter, R. 5 Box 97, Peru, IN 46970. Thank you for your past and future generosity.

HART, MICHIGAN

The Hart Congregation is looking forward to their revival meeting to be held July 17-24, 1994, the Lord Willing. Bro. James Meyers of Dallas Center, Iowa is to be the evangelist.

On Saturday, July 23, services will begin at 11:00 A.M. The Lovefeast Service will be held that evening.

We seek your presence and your prayers.

Sister Beverly St. John, Cor.

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

The Englewood Congregation is looking forward to a continual refreshing in the Lord after a pleasant and meaningful General Conference. Our Revival Meetings will begin July 22 and end July 31 for a ten day effort.

Brother Jason Reed will be our evangelist, the Lord willing. We would appreciate your attendance and your prayers in behalf of the unsaved.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

SHREWSBURY, PENNSYLVANIA

The Shrewsbury Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings this summer. It will start July 31 and close August 7. The Lord willing, the evangelist will be Elder Fred Pifer from Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation. Come to these meetings and pray for the Evangelist and those who hear the message, that the Lord will do great things in the hearts of the people.

Sister Fern Ness, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

The Swallow Falls Congregation, Oakland, Maryland, is planning their annual revival August 20 through August 28, each evening services will be at 7:30 with our presiding Elder Brother Virgil Leatherman of Littlestown, Pennsylvania as evangelist.

Lovefeast will be Saturday evening, August 27. Sunday, August 28, there will be a fellowship dinner on the grounds following the morning service.

We solicit your presence and your prayers.

The day of the Lord draweth nigh. Are you ready to meet Him?

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

DALLAS CENTER, IOWA

"O come, let us worship and bow down: let us kneel before the Lord our maker." Psalm 95:6.

The Dallas Center Dunkard Brethren Church invites you to our revival meetings, August 14 through 28. The Lord willing, Brother Ray Stuber, Felton, Pennsylvania, will be our evangelist.

Services begin at 7:30 each week night and at 10:45 A.M., Saturday, August 27 with Lovefeast services that evening.

Please pray for these meetings.

Sister Becky Funk, Cor.

●

Give unto the Lord the glory due unto His name;
worship the Lord in the beauty of Holiness.

●

Those who bring sunshine into the lives of others,
cannot keep it from themselves

●

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

TRUST IN GOD

Courage brother! do not stumble,
Though thy path be dark as night;
There's a star to guide the humble—
 Trust in God and do the right.
Though the road be long and dreary,
 And the end be out of sight:
Foot it bravely, strong or weary—
 Trust in God and do the right.

Some will hate thee, some will love thee,
Some will flatter, some will slight:
Cease from man, and look above thee;
 Trust in God and do the right.
Simple rule and safest guiding—
Inward peace and shining light—
Star upon our path abiding—
 Trust in God and do the right.

AN EVIDENT TOKEN

A token represents something else. A bus token replaces the amount of money that would be required for a ride. The token was originally purchased for that amount of money, now it represents that money. For safety and security reasons, many times only tokens will be received. Money will not be accepted. The token is worth a ride on the bus.

Something evident is something known. It can be seen and understood. The token is evidence that the money has been paid so the service can be rendered. But a counterfeit token could be presented as the real thing and if not careful one might accept it as being evidence that the fee had been paid.

We accept many things as evident tokens of other things. A uniform and a badge identify a policeman. These are tokens of his position. When needed we look for these tokens. A stop sign or speed limit sign along a road are evident tokens of the law—making power of the civil government. A patent number on a product is an evident token that someone has invented a new product or process. A copyright statement is an evident token that the author or authors have produced some original material, worthy of protection. An electric light switch is an evident token of an extensive electrical supply system that brings power to that switch so it can be used to turn a light on. It represents more than just the wiring within that building; it represents the thousands of miles of electric lines which are interconnected across the country.

The lives and actions of men are good tokens of men's inner most being. Those who would serve self and Satan can be detected by their actions. The company they keep, the places they go, the language they use and the things they do are all tokens of who controls their lives. On

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the other hand, those who have given control of their lives to God, through Jesus Christ, also betray their master by their appearance and actions. They are like Peter, when the servants detected that he was a follower of Jesus by his speech. Although he denied, they still could tell.

Christian living will betray the Christian to the world. If the Christian does not have this token of his relationship with God, then there is something not right with his life. That token should be there since faith without works is dead. A Christian without a Christian witness is a poor witness and may even be dead.

The world may see the Christian's best efforts as failure, because the Christian does not live by the same code of conduct as the self-seeking world around him. Since he does not participate in the world's methods, the world may judge him a failure. They see him as weak and unambitious, but God will judge his efforts by a different code. What the world judges to be a failure on the Christian's part will prove to be an accomplishment in the end. For what God would commend would be the best and highest. So the Christian has a duty to produce an evident token of Spiritual success in place of worldly failure.

The Apostle Paul often spoke of his signature as being a token of his feelings toward other believers. They would know him by his signature. Most of his letters were written for him by his assistants, but he signed them so they would be considered authentic. The advice and warning contained in those epistles were more likely to hit the target of the lives of those who received them, than if he had merely dictated it and not signed it. This made each letter personal

The greatest token of all, was God's Gift. He sent His only begotten Son because His love was so great that He could give nothing less. Throughout the Old Testament, God had given many evidences of His love, but He never gave greater proof of His Love than in the sending of His own Son. Just the idea of sharing His Son with this world full of failed humanity was radical enough, but when He actually gave Him as the Passover Lamb to cover the sins of those same ruined humans, He showed His love better than through all other words or deeds.

What tokens do we have to give in return? Are there tokens that show our appreciation and love to Him? Our first token should be our acceptance of the gift that He has given. Our second should be our obedience of His stated commands. Our further tokens should be lives that honor Him and will be a good witness of His plan toward the surrounding world.

Is your life an evident token of God's love for you and for others?

MCC

LET GOD BE MAGNIFIED

Psalm 70:4, "Let all those that seek thee rejoice and be glad in thee: and let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified."

We not only seek God at the time of our salvation experience, but we should seek Him each day of our life. We should seek His wisdom to lead us in making right decisions. We should seek His love that we would treat others as we would wish to be treated. We should seek His holiness that we may live lives pure and holy and unspotted from the world.

When we make seeking God a daily part of our lives, we will learn to love His salvation. No longer will obedience to His divine will be something I must do, like taking a pill.

As the Psalmist instructs us, "let such as love thy salvation say continually, Let God be magnified." The word "magnify" has several meanings. One of these is, "to enlarge." God is high and holy and we can not enlarge His glory. But we can enlarge our wisdom of Him by the regular study of His Holy Word. No matter how many times we may have read the Bible through, there is still much wisdom to be gleaned from the pages of Holy Writ.

Another meaning is, "to exaggerate". There is no way that we can exaggerate the greatness of our God. However, we do tend to exaggerate the greatness and wisdom of man. There are those who go so far as to teach that man created God in place of the Scriptural truth that God created man. There is no denying that man has increased in wisdom but we are persuaded that all wisdom comes from God. This does not mean that man can not misuse the wisdom that God has provided.

An additional meaning is, "to increase the apparent size of as by means of a lens". As the song writer stated so eloquently,

"He is big enough to rule the entire universe,

Yet small enough to live within my heart."

Yes, God is larger in power and glory than we can ever hope to fully describe. But when we place our daily walk under the lens of His holy requirements our sins and shortcomings will appear to be much larger.

A final meaning, and we are sure this is what the Psalmist was referring to, is, "to praise or extol". The idea that we are to rejoice in our Lord is not only an Old Testament teaching. In Philippians 4:4 Paul instructs us, "Rejoice in the Lord alway: and again I say, Rejoice." In 1 Thessalonians 5:16 he tells us, "Rejoice evermore."

We are not only to rejoice, but we are to be glad in our Lord. Song writer Philip Doddridge put it this way,

"O happy day that fixed my choice,
On Thee, my Savior and my God!
Well may this glowing heart rejoice,
And tell its raptures all abroad.

Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!
He taught me how to watch and pray,
and live rejoicing every day;
Happy day, happy day,
When Jesus washed my sins away!"

Another song writer, Miss Clara Teare, says it like this,

"Hallelujah! I have found Him
Whom my soul so long has craved!
Jesus satisfies my longings;
Through His blood I now am saved."

To extol is to lift up in praise. It is also to recognize the greatness and glory of our God. We have already alluded to the denial of the Creation. Theistic evolution is no more than a humanistic lie wrapped up in a theological dissertation. In place of magnifying God we try to bring Him down to our human level.

We try to understand God in place of magnify Him. Just because some can not explain the Holy Trinity they deny the reality of this Scriptural teaching.

Yes, let God be magnified. Let us give Him the honor, glory and praise He deserves. Let us seek to be more like God the Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. Let us allow the Holy Spirit to lead, guide and direct us each day of our life.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

July 15, 1934
CONSTRUCTIVE CHURCH WORK
L. W. Beery

In Romans 14, the apostle Paul speaks of various things that often cause strife and contention which hinders the work of the church, and

then concludes with the declaration in verse 19, "Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another." We might with profit consider this advice as we endeavor to carry on the work of the Master in our day of unrest.

From the language used it can be seen the apostle had in mind the peace and prosperity of Zion, and this should be uppermost in the mind of each one of us as we engage in church work. The reason for this is obvious, the salvation of souls is dependent upon it.

Although we may all have in mind the peace and prosperity of the church yet we may have different ideas or methods of attaining the desired end and thus have conflicting effort which would not be desirable. We would do well to heed the advice of the apostle in this matter and if we would have the church to be in peace, then "follow after the things that make for peace."

The inference is left here that some things we may do "make" for peace and others do not; this we all know to be true in our own experience. The "Peace" which we speak of, is the peace of God. There is a peace which is of this world which we have no reference to. Jesus said, "Peace I leave with you, my peace I give unto you: not as the world giveth, give I unto you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid." (John 14:27.)

The peace which concerns the church is that which comes through faith in, and obedience to the gospel. Even though we may accept the gospel and try to live as it teaches there is ever that danger of transgressions or violations and resultant offenses, and we are told how to proceed in such cases to restore peace and keep the church pure. Too often in the past when troubles arose those involved did not proceed as the gospel teaches and much harm was done that might have been averted. In view of this fact it would be wise for us to exercise care along this line continually.

Kindness, meekness, humility, preferring one another, makes for peace, begets love and edifies the church; whereas pride, selfishness, self-will, greed and such like generates hatred, jealousy, strife and contention and destroys all things good. There are some things we may do that may not of themselves be harmful but may have a tendency to lead to sinful things; it would be wise to deny ourselves such things. Then again, we may do some things that may not be harmful to us, yet it might offend our brother; in such a case it would show the proper spirit to cease doing that which offends our brother. The apostle tells us, "Wherefore, if meat make my brother of offend I will eat no flesh while the world standeth, lest I make my brother to offend." (I Cor. 8:13.) Such conduct is constructive church work; may we abound more and more in these things which make for peace and the edification of the church.

"Put on therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, bowels of mercies, kindness, humbleness of mind, meekness, longsufferings;

Forbearing one another, and forgiving one another, if any man have a quarrel against any: even as Christ forgave you, so also do ye. And above all these things put on charity, which is the bond of perfectness. And let the peace of God rule in your hearts, to the which also ye are called in one body; and be ye thankful." (Col. 3:12-15.)

MUSINGS OF A MOTHER ON "GENTLENESS"

Lord, I've failed again. How grateful I am for your mercy and forgiveness.

I've read in Your Word again about having the "meekness and gentleness of Christ."

Oh, Lord, let me possess that! I covet it!

Gentleness.

It just seems like so often when things happen that don't meet my approval I can get so harsh and critical. I know you want us to hate sin and to flee from it. To hold up a standard and to defend You unashamed.

But, still, in all this, help me be gentle.

Help me be gentle with my children. Help me to lovingly show them that I care about what's best for them and I'm not just disciplining them because they broke one of my rules.

Help me to realize that I'm just a sinner saved by grace and to have much more tolerance, love and patience with other unsaved sinners.

Help me to be gentle with those who have different convictions than I have. I didn't used to always see things as I do now either. Help me to love them as they are and with gentleness appeal to them that they may be drawn closer to Christ.

Help me be gentle when I don't agree with my Brothers and Sisters in the Lord. It's so easy to look at those who have stricter guidelines than I have and think they're radical. On the other hand, those whose standards are lower can be looked at as unspiritual. Help me realize that where I've drawn the line just may not be right and I need to be gentle with all others.

When I hear of immorality or activities that grieve Your heart, help it to grieve mine, too, but to still be gentle. Those people need to be loved, forgiven, and restored, not despised, gossiped about, and destroyed. Make me gentle, Lord.

How beautifully stated I Thess. 2:7 is: "But we were gentle among you, even as a nurse cherisheth her children."

Renew a right spirit in me, Lord.

A meek and gentle spirit that others may see Christ.

Amen.

Sister Sally Meyers

MEDITATE UPON THESE THINGS

"Meditate upon these things; give thyself wholly to them; that thy profiting may appear to all." I Timothy 4:15.

It is not those who eat the most, but those who digest the most who are the most nourished. It is not the one who gets the most, but the one who keeps the most who is the richest. So therefore it is not they who hear the most or read the most but they who meditate the most who are the most edified and nourished and enriched unto everlasting life. Psalm 104:34: "My meditation of him shall be sweet..." Psalm 119:97: "...I love thy law! it is my meditation all the day." Psalm 119:99: "...for thy testimonies are my meditation." What do we meditate upon? Is it the good things of God or is our heart consumed with the wisdom or ignorance of this world?

Often when good people get together, as in a worship service, the talk afterward does not bespeak the contents of the service. Other things are dwelt upon: occupations, pastimes, automobiles, and the like. If indeed our meditations of Him were sweet, how different would the afterservice be!

We live not too many miles from Philadelphia and most people in this part of the country are Phillies fans. You can usually spot a Phillies fan. He will have items of clothing with the Phillies logo on it. He will ask you why you are not a Phillies fan. (It may be good to mention here that "fan" is a shortened form of the word "fanatic.")

Are the ways of God our meditation? Do we dwell upon His Goodness? If we do, then others will notice, and doors will be opened for us to enlighten them about our Saviour.

Blest are the souls that hear and know
The gospel's joyful sound;
Peace shall attend the path they go,
And light their steps surround.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

LEADERSHIP

As we ponder over the Old Testament stories, there are many valuable lessons and principles found woven on its pages. There is one that comes to mind at this time; the story of Moses when he went up on the Mount. In Exodus 29, God called him up onto the Holy Mount. The succeeding events that happened are contained in the next three chapters.

First, the people began to doubt if Moses would come back again. Then they asked Aaron "to make them gods that would go before them." Some questions come to mind.

Aaron knew his brother and had seen some of God's mighty works. Why did he bow to their wishes? Was he subject to peer pressure? Why would someone be so moved, after they had walked under the mighty hand of God? It doesn't make sense to us, but Aaron was deeply moved by this great multitude. Not only moved, but moved totally in the opposite direction from God.

Do the ideas and desires of people sway us away from God's principles? Can you put yourself in the shoes of an Elder? Several people in the Church feel it's all right to be involved in a practice that the Church has taken a stand against. What do you do? Do you first make sure that the Church has Biblical authority for the standard in question? After confirming this fact, what then? You will spend some time in prayer asking God for wisdom, knowledge, and understanding. Then at the appropriate time and setting, you will admonish the congregation as a whole. Invite them to pray with you and begin to trust that God's spirit will work in the lives of those involved. Then later, if need be, appropriate steps may be taken in accordance with Matthew 18.

After Moses left, we see that Aaron, in the leadership position, worried more about pleasing the people than leading them. Without a leader the people will perish. When Moses came back from the mount we see reorganization, but not without some hard feelings. Three thousand men died that day due to the lack of a leader. Can the importance of a leader be pressed upon us any more? Moses went back to God on behalf of the people to plead forgiveness. God forgave but not without exacting a price. Anytime you get involved with people, there will be sacrifice. The more involvement, the more sacrifice. Leadership requires involvement and sacrifice. You can not lead from a far off, you have to get yourself right in the middle of the people. You have to make a stand on God's unfailing word. You must realize that you will not please everyone that is involved. When people began to purify and sanctify their vessels it hurts. And when people hurt they oftentimes get very sensitive about what is going on in their lives.

Leadership in itself and once dissected is not what it might appear to be from the outside looking in. It involves chastening, discipline, time, knowledge, wisdom, understanding, LOVE, study, responsibility, and we just have gotten started.

My dear ones are you ready for leadership? Do you think you really want to be a leader? Being a leader can be confusing sometimes. At

some point followers appear to want to be left to their own ways, which obviously will lead them away from God. At other times they are very upset when the leader does not meet their expectations. Matt. 26:31.

Leadership can be rewarding but oftentimes the rewards seem to come too far apart. Nevertheless when God calls and gives you that responsibility it is in your interest and God's glorification that you respond. God has given you that talent, that ability, now are you going to use it or give God a reason why you can't? Has God ever accepted excuses? I think not! If nothing else as we work and give our all, the reward at the end will be worth it all. With the leadership role comes an awesome responsibility.

The question is, Do I have what it takes to do it? Charles Spurgeon said, "If God calls you to preach then don't stoop to be a king."

Brother Dave Snyder

THE COMING OF THE LORD

(Based on Matthew 24:34-44)

Heaven and earth shall pass away
But not the Words of the Lord.
They are forever settled in Heaven
You can read it in His Word.

That day and hour knoweth no man
Neither doth the angels in Heaven,
Nor Jesus Himself knoweth the time
God only knows when the signal t'will be given.

As it were in the days of Noe
Because of sin, humans were in the dark,
They were eating, drinking and marrying
When Noe and family entered the ark.

They knew not until the flood came
And took them all away.
One thing we know for certain
He is coming again someday.

God's Word gives us fair warning
We're not to repeat their sin.
But, today we see all about us

The same wickedness again.
Watch, therefore, for ye know not
When our Lord doth come.
We are warned to be prepared
Lest we miss our Heavenly Home.

Therefore, be ye always ready for
When He cometh, we know not the hour.
We do know that when He doth come
It will be with much glory and much power.

The sheep of His green pastures
Will be invited to enter in
The courts of Heaven, but the wolves will
Be cast out because of sin.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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Canton, OH 44718

BEING PREPARED TO MEET GOD

"God, who at sundry times and in divers manners spake in time past unto the fathers by the prophets, hath in these last days spoken unto us by his Son,...." Hebrews 1:1-2a. He has shown his great power, not only by these words but through many other means.

He has given men many warnings through earthquakes, storms, and floods. If men would take these warnings, they could escape many of their troubles and losses and heartaches.

The best advice is to repent and turn to the Lord Jesus and seek His will. Those who draw close to Him, He will draw nigh to them and bless them. If men would ACCEPT Him as Lord and Savior, much trouble would be left off.

If men would do this, how much happier all could be, with less sorrow and pain. Life would be like living in A NEW world, without sin, sorrow, pain, death nor tears. It can not be described with words.

I like to think what Heaven will be. We know it will be far better than here. How sweet it will be in that beautiful land. There we will be FREE from all sorrow and care. We will sing praises to the lamb. I love to sing!

WHEN I get there I will be at home and happy. I will never have to hear bad words or anyone's complaint or wish to be some where else.

I have heard people say that they are in no hurry to stand before

GOD. If that is the case they need to repent and get ready because they are going to stand before Him, want to or not. When HE calls all are going and all will stand before Him, without fail none will escape.

II Corinthians 5:10, "For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad."

II Corinthians 5:12, "For we commend not ourselves again unto you, but give you occasion to glory on our behalf, that ye may have somewhat to answer them which glory in appearance, and not in heart."

Brother Lester Bittinger
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Mt. Solon, VA 22843

THE RIDDLE OF FAITH AND WORKS

There are two statements of Paul about justification (forgiveness of sins) which seem to contradict each other.

Verse 1. (Romans 3:20)

"Therefore by the deeds of the LAW there shall no flesh be JUSTIFIED in his sight:..."

Verse 2. (Romans 2:13)

"For not the hearers of the law are just before God, but the doers of the LAW shall be JUSTIFIED."

The riddle is of course, "How can both of these verses be true?" The answer is that verse one refers to HOW WE ARE JUSTIFIED, while verse two refers to WHO IS JUSTIFIED.

Verse 1. How justified...

No one can be justified (forgiven) by keeping the law, for even though we keep every commandment from this day forward, someone must pay for the sins we have already committed. We are justified by faith in Christ.

Verse 2. WHO justified...

On the other hand, only the "doers of the law will be justified before God." Therefore, it must follow that only the doers of the law have a genuine faith in Christ.

"Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus." Revelation 14:12.

Harold and Donna Kupp
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Waldport, OR 97394

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

The Lord's Day

J. H. Moore

The resolutions formed on Saturday night or Sunday morning determine the destiny of hundreds if not tens of thousands. The week's work is done, the wages for the toil of six days have been received, and it is a question as to how the morrow shall be spent. Sometimes the question is not settled until Sunday morning. The question is not confined to the day laborer, but it applies to the farmers and others as well.

Among worldly people there might possibly be some excuse for laying pleasure plans for the Lord's Day. They are unconverted, belong to the world and often seek to spend the Lord's Day in a worldly manner. To see them riding over the country, absenting themselves from the place of worship, and seeking the pleasure resorts is no more than might be expected. But why should Christians follow their example? Why should the believers lay pleasure plans on Saturday evening and then rise early on Sunday morning to execute them? Why should devout people leave the house of God and go out into the world for enjoyment?

I once knew a family that was never troubled with this question. In fact, I have known many families that probably never gave the question one moment's thought. But this particular family had its face set Zionward, and on Saturday evening every member retired with the full purpose of spending the Lord's Day in a manner wholly becoming their profession. They arose on Sunday morning with that as a fixed purpose. It was no trouble for them to get ready for Sunday School and meeting. They did not have to make up their minds as to whether they would attend the services that day. That question was settled in their very makeup. It was therefore an easy matter for them to drive eight miles to church.

None of their neighbors thought of visiting them on Sunday forenoon. They knew that was their time to go to church, and everybody for miles around, and all along the road to the meetinghouse, would have thought it strange if they did not go. The people who attended the services, from time to time, always expected to see that particular family on hand when the meeting was opened. If, for any reason, sickness should keep them home, everybody in meeting, from the elder down, was wondering what was the matter. A family of this kind in a neighborhood is always a power for good.

Then I knew another family that was just the reverse. When

Saturday evening came they had no fixed purpose, unless it was to go visiting on Sunday, or work up some excuse for not going to meeting. If they meant to have a good time on the Lord's Day they could be up bright and early on Sunday morning, fully prepared to carry out their purpose without a hitch. They often complained that they could not get ready in time to reach the Sunday School at ten, two miles away, but it never seemed a task for them to drive ten miles to the picnic, or the camp meeting in the grove.

In appearance the father and mother looked like Christians. Seeing them drive along the road on Sunday morning, most any stranger would have regarded them as devout church members. But their conduct and looks did not correspond, and often caused many remarks among the outside people as well as among the members of the church. Their neighbors knew, of course, that they belonged to the church, but never could understand just why they seemed to be so little interested in what was going on at the meetinghouse. They were never known to take anybody along to preaching, but would now and then take some of their neighbors with them to other places.

The members of this family appeared to be guilty of no special sin, and yet they were no credit to the church. They belonged to the congregation, but were a very poor light to the world. In fact they were almost a hindrance to the cause, their influence being mainly in the wrong direction. All of this was for the want of a fixed purpose to serve the Lord with a whole heart.

OBITUARY

JACK L. SNYDER

Brother Jack L. Snyder, died August 30, 1993, at the age of 54 years 10 months 17 days, following an illness of ten months.

He was the husband of Miriam B. (Wise) Snyder. The couple observed their thirty-fifth wedding anniversary on May 10, 1993.

Born October 13, 1938 in Bern Township, Berks County, he was the son of the late Herbert and Evelyn (Berkenstock) Snyder.

He worked as a bindery supervisor for Science Press in Ephrata for twenty four years, retiring due to illness in November 1992.

Jack was a member and Elder of the Lititz Conservative Baptist Brethren Church.

Surviving in addition to his wife are two sons, Keith L. and Curtis L. Snyder both of Denver, Pennsylvania; two daughters, Bonita Snyder at home, and Karla, wife of Isaac Martin, Ephrata, Pennsylvania; five grandchildren; four sisters, June, wife of Walter Cass, Renee, wife of George Throne both of Bethel, Pennsylvania, Susan, wife of Timothy Alspaugh, Bernville, Pennsylvania and Kathleen, wife of Lee

Burkholder of Manheim, Pennsylvania.

The funeral was held at the Lititz Conservative Baptist Brethren Church in Lititz on Thursday, September 2, at 10:00 A.M. with Elder George Longenecker and ministers Jay Gingrich and Daniel Alspaugh officiating. Interment was in the Hess Mennonite Cemetery, Lititz.

A NOTE OF THANKS

We wish to express our sincere thanks across the brotherhood for all the prayers, cards, telephone calls, care and concerns or any act of kindness you have shown to us throughout Jack's illness and death. May you continue to remember us as we go forth from day to day.

In Christian Love,
Miriam Snyder and family

NEWS ITEMS

WALNUT GROVE, MARYLAND

The Walnut Grove Congregation plans, Lord willing, to have our Revival Meeting July 17 to 24. Bro. Ray Stuber will be our evangelist. Encourage us with your presence, and pray with us that souls will be born into the kingdom, and His people will be revived.

Sister Dorothy Nell, Cor.

BROADWATER CHAPEL, MARYLAND

The Lord willing, the Broadwater Congregation will be holding a four day revival beginning August 4 through August 7. There will be no Lovefeast. Bro. Frank Shaffer, Jr. will be our speaker. Come, praying, for we are few in number.

Sister Lavona Sines, Cor.

A NOTE OF THANKS

I wish to thank each one who sent get well cards to me, also flowers and food, and the many prayers that were offered on my behalf.

God is so good. He never forsakes His own.

May God bless you all is my prayer.

Sister Martha Shaffer

THANK YOU

We want to express our sincere thanks and appreciation to all the Brothers and Sisters that remembered Pete in prayer and with get-well cards while in the hospital. Also for the prayers and cards we have received after his death.

In Christian Love,
Pete Lorenz family

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1994

August 7 - Paul Heals a Cripple at Lystra; Paul stoned - Acts 14:1-28.

1. Why did one group want to kill Paul, while the other group thought him a god?
2. What did the cripple need to have before Paul could help him?

August 14 - Conference at Jerusalem - Acts 15:1-41.

1. What does it mean to abstain?
2. What was the end result of the contention between Paul and Barnabas?

August 21 - Paul and Silas go to Macedonia - Acts 16:1-24.

1. How does God's missionary call come today?
2. Why was Paul grieved by the damsel's cry of truth?

August 28 - The Jailer Converted - Acts 16:25-40.

1. What events brought the jailer to salvation?
2. Why didn't Paul reveal his Roman citizenship before he was beaten?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR AUGUST 1994

August 7 - Blood Atonement - Heb. 9:28, Lev. 4:1-12, Heb. 9:19-28.

1. State the purpose of laying hands on the bullock's head.
2. Why is blood required for atonement?

August 14 - The Scapegoat - Heb. 13:14, Lev. 16:20-28, Heb. 13:11-13.

1. What does it mean to be a scapegoat?
2. In what way was Jesus like the scapegoat as He hung on the cross?

August 21 - Immorality Forbidden - Titus 1:15-16, Lev. 18:24-30.

1. Why must our profession and works agree?
2. What does the word "defiled" mean?

August 28 - Witchcraft - Rejection of God - I Sam. 15:23, Lev. 19:31, 20:6-7, 27.

1. Why is witchcraft a sin?
2. Who are the familiar spirits familiar with?

Paul Stump
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

HONOR ALL MEN

Great Master! teach us how to hope in man:
We lift our eyes upon his works and ways,
And disappointment chills us as we gaze,
Our dream of him so far the truth out-ran,
So far his deeds are ever falling short.

And then we fold our graceful hands and say,
"The world is vulgar." Didst thou turn away,
O Sacred Spirit, delicately wrought,
Because the humble souls of Galilee
Were tuned not to the music of thine own
And chimed not to the pulsing undertone
Which swelled Thy loving bosom like the sea?

Shame thou our coldness, most benignant Friend,
When we so daintily do condescend.

-Martha Perry Howe

EDIFICATION

It is easy to tear down someone else. It is human nature to find fault. As people have grown away from the original image of God in which they were created, they have become less like Him. God is love. Man has become less loving, less lovely and less lovable. As a very dim image of God, men have become critical and destructive of others, unlike God. God has shown extended patience in offering help and love when men have been anything but lovable. But men have denied Him and frustrated His attempts to help them.

Unfortunately these critics have not been confined to the unconverted world. Many have found a home within the Church. As unlikely as it may seem, some of the severest critics of the Church are Church members. Their chief talent is to search out and find the things that they disapprove of within the Church. Once they have found these faults, they broadcast them, within and without the Church, by word and attitude.

Throughout the New Testament; especially in the writings of Paul, the concept of edification is presented. This word does not appear once in the Old Testament. The law of "an eye for eye and a tooth for a tooth" was the standard for Old Testament times. But within the coming of Jesus Christ came a new law that was more concerned with internal, Spiritual values than with external, physical rituals. God sought the Spiritual well-being and growth of the believer. To grow as a Christian, it was necessary that he be edified. He could be edified through education, when knowledge was needed to underpin his faith. When he needed to know Bible doctrine on a certain subject, he would be build up by learning more. At other times edification might take the form of praise. Edification is not flattery. It may be praise shared when the recipient is hardly deserving, but is

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trying to reach a higher plane of living. It is far better to err on the side of praising too highly than on the side of condemning too swiftly or severely.

Edification can be applied to the Church as a whole, not only to individual members. For the Church as a whole needs to be built up. There will be mistakes made. There will be wrong decisions made. There will be wrong directions taken. But if the attitude is that the Church is going wrong, there will be little interest outside the Church in being a part of such a negative group. As this negative perception takes hold both inside and outside the Church, the Church will live down to those negative expectations. This becomes a vicious cycle. Those outside are repelled, so the Church loses their help and well wishes. As the Church fails to grow and progress Spiritually, her members become even more negative. Some leave for other groups; others stay but become inactive. Still others become more bitter and more negative, making an even less inviting Church for others.

Because tearing down comes naturally to man, it is a sign of a changed life when instead of destruction there is edification. The Christian is admonished to build upon the foundation of the Apostles with Jesus as the chief cornerstone. He is to build a building that is fitly framed together with other believers. To build together, there must be edification among the various components of the building. Just as each organ of the human body has a function, so each part of a building is needed. It is good if they can build up each other. If one part begins to doubt the integrity of another part, there will be a weakening and a disruption that could threaten the whole building. When there is little edification within the Church, there is a growing lack of trust among the members. With this lack of trust comes dissension and perhaps, eventually, disintegration.

Instead, the Church should be building herself up, through members who are lifting each other up. The members of the Church should be her greatest support. She should be in such a condition that she will be sought out by the world as God's soul-saving station on this planet.

The early Church grew when she took a strong stand and was firm in her beliefs and practices. Others were attracted to her, which further added to her power and attractiveness. The Church today must see herself as the Bride of Christ given the most important task in this world. She must pursue this task diligently as the edified and edifying.

Are you edifying others by building them up? Are you building the Church up?

LIFE

Genesis 1:27, "So God created man in his own image, in the image of God created he him; male and female created he them."

Genesis 2:7, "And the Lord God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the BREATH OF LIFE; and man became a living soul."

Thus, was the start of HUMAN LIFE.

Hebrews 9:27, "And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment."

The span of time between the day of our birth and the day of our death is our LIFE.

For some, LIFE may be very short. For others, it may span a century or more.

Psalms 90:9b, "...we spend our years as a tale that is told."

Psalms 90:10, "The days of our years are threescore years and ten; and if by reason of strength they be fourscore years, yet is their strength labour and sorrow; for it is soon cut off, and we fly away."

In Moses' prayer in Psalms 90:12 he prayed, "So teach us to number our days, that we may apply our hearts unto wisdom."

With reference to labor and sorrow we read in Job 5:7, "Yet man is born unto trouble, as the sparks fly upward."

Man is a two-fold being. We read in I Corinthians 15:44, "...There is a natural body, and there is a spiritual body."

Fortunes are spent to maintain a healthy and functional natural body and by the same token, masses of people neglect to take proper care of their Spiritual body.

The wise man, Solomon, states in Ecclesiastes 12:1, "Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth, while the evil days come not, nor the years draw nigh, when thou shalt say, I have no pleasure in them."

The days of our youth set patterns which are often followed throughout life. If we accept Christ in our formative years and make a consistent effort to obey God's Holy Word, we will be more able to combat Satan and his allurements throughout life.

One's life can not be successful if we only take care of the natural. We will find ourselves without hope, miserable, lost, and barred from Heaven. IT PAYS TO SERVE JESUS. HE IS OUR HOPE OF HEAVEN.

If we hear, know, believe and obey, we shall not come into condemnation, but are passed from death unto LIFE.

This safe passage is only assured us if in this life we are buried in baptism, become a new creature and life faithful until death.

Paul, in Romans 6:8 calls this transformation, "NEWNESS OF LIFE."

We no more follow the things of the flesh, but of the Spirit.

The Apostle Paul in Galatians 2:20 writes, "I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the LIFE WHICH I NOW LIVE in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me."

Paul lived a different life after his conversion. Instead of being a liability to the cause of Christ he became an asset.

After a true conversion, the LIFE of that person will be a reflection of the LIFE of Jesus, the Spiritual Light of the world.

Individuals who amass fortunes, assume they are very successful in LIFE. In a material sense they are. If Christ is left out of their lives, their LIFE is a failure, spiritually. Luke 12:15, Jesus speaking, "...a man's life consisteth not in the abundance of the things which he possesseth."

We, each one, in obtaining our wealth, must make positively sure we are possessors of THE ONE PEARL OF GREAT PRICE. Matthew 13:46.

Jesus speaking in Luke 12:23 states, "The LIFE is more than meat, and the body is more than raiment."

We want and seek for many things in this LIFE, which are not always attainable. Jesus states in Matthew 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

We know that as sure as we were born and lived our allotted time on earth, and if the Lord comes not before, we shall die.

The body goes back to dust. The soul goes back to God who gave it.

Summarizing, Jesus admonishes us in Revelation 2:10, "..be thou faithful unto death, and I will give thee a crown of life."

That LIFE will not be for a period of years. It will be ETERNAL, without end.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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PRAY WITHOUT CEASING

I Thessalonians 5:17

By the time you read this another General Conference has come and gone. We were not able to attend this year, but a day did not go

by that we did not pause and pray, not for any selfish motives on our part, but that GOD WOULD RECEIVE THE GLORY. Many Brethren were fortunate to be able to travel to Conference and enjoy the blessed fellowship found there. We, who had to stay home, sincerely hope that you thanked the Good Lord for health and strength and traveling mercies.

We are made to think back about a hundred years to an old preacher whose name was Christian Harvey Balsbaugh. C. H. Balsbaugh lost his voice one day, and had very little use of it for the rest of his life. He did not mope around in despair calling out to God, "Why hast thou made me thus?" No. Rather, he made use of the talents God gave him and his calling by writing for the church publications. His writing was known far and wide. Though his voice was stilled, his pen was not.

I am often guided by the old proverb, "Hope for the best, but prepare for the worst." It is good common sense. Some say, however, that there is no faith found there, but let's think about it this way. Let's say I made plans to go to conference. I put in for vacation time at work, I cancelled mail delivery. I had the vehicle checked and serviced. We got out clothes and belongings together and made plans to have our animals fed and looked after. All these arrangements were made, yet a last-minute problem prevented us from going. All the preparation was wasted because WE FORGOT TO PRAY. It is better to pray WHILE you prepare. Then, too, do not waste your time fretting if then suddenly you cannot go. Conference will continue without you, but NOT WITHOUT YOUR PRAYERS.

During the great Welsh Revival of 1904, there were always those whose job it was to do nothing but pray. We often say, "if you cannot come, pray", as if prayer was a last resort. It is not. IT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING. PRAY WITHOUT CEASING!

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TWO ROADS

A young man stands undecided, which way should his footsteps go? Will he follow his conscience of nonresistance or become a war hero? A teacher tells him the virtues of honor, to be proud to fight for the flag.

His classmates talk of "having a ball" in the service, and encourage him, "don't be a drag."

The president says it has to be done to keep our country free.

Men of wealth, position and honor all enthusiastically agree.
A minister fervently declares, it is the duty of each Christian man.
Fingers pointing accusedly, prove YOUR point, if you can.

The young man stood dazed, shaken to his very soul.
Did not one person understand, was he forced to "play the role?"
He decided, I'll search the Scriptures and prove myself right or wrong.
For I have dedicated my life to Jesus, and to God I now belong.

He read Matthew 5:9 and thought, well God loves men of peace.
He read on to verses 38 to 49 and said, I must love my enemies,
though war may never cease.
Then in Matthew 22:39 he asked himself, who might my neighbor be?
After reading Luke 6:27 to 36 he thought, a re-statement of love I see.

Reading on to Romans 12:19 to 21 he thought, how can I feed my
enemy if he is dead?
And besides that it says not me, but God shall avenge instead.
He meditated, I find Jesus and the apostles helping, healing, but
never taking life.
They stand boldly on salvation and avoid physical strife.

With deep emotion he prayed, Jesus, I have promised to take up my
cross and follow you.
It seems I have no choice, you have told me what to do.
Though friends despise me and people label me coward, traitor or
worse,
I will not fight, kill or maim, I'll show love and will not curse.

James 3:9 to 10 "Therewith bless we God, even the Father, and
therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God.
Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My
brethren, those things ought not so to be."

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ALL WAR IS SIN

All war, any war, war in any form:
Past wars were sin,
Present wars are sin,
Future wars will be sin.
Big wars, little wars, long wars, short wars
Declared wars,
Cold Wars,
Undeclared wars,
Holy wars.

Defensive wars,
Aggressive wars,
Experimental wars,
Sectional wars,
Civil wars,
National wars,
World wars.
Specific wars and war in general.
Private wars,
Public wars,
Your wars,
My wars,
His war,
Her war,
Our war,
Their war.
On land, sea,
In the air and outer space.
Wars with sticks and clubs,
Bows and arrows,
Swords and spears,
Rifles and pistols,
Cannons and machine guns,
Atomic and nuclear bombs,
Poisons, Gases, Germs.
Wars for profits,
Wars for trade,
Wars for territory,
Wars for power,
Wars for peace,
and religious wars.
Wars fought to solve problems,
Wars fought to hide problems,
Wars fought to escape problems
Wars fought rather than face problems.

Every war is sin without exception.
 Ancient wars,
 Medieval wars,
 Modern Wars
Egyptian wars,
 Babylonian wars,
 Persian wars,
 Assyrian wars;
Amalekite wars,
 Canaanite wars,
 Ammonite wars,
 Gibeonite wars;
Punic wars,
 Peloponnesian wars,
 Greek wars,
 Roman wars;
English wars,
 French wars,
 German wars,
 Spanish wars,
 American wars—
The Revolutionary War,
 The Civil War,
 The Mexican War,
 The Spanish-American War;
World War I
 World War II
 The Korean War,
 The Vietnamese War
War is an expression of
 greed, selfishness,
 jealousy, anger,
 hatred, covetousness.
War promotes
 drunkenness, graft,
 adultery, crime.
War destroys
 the unborn, the newborn,
 infants, children,
 youth, the mature, the aged.
War deprives
 children of their parents,
 youth of their dreams,
 wives of their husbands
 husbands of their homes
and blights the memories of the aged

War violates the Greatest Commandment,
 War repudiates the one "like unto it."
 War breaks all the Ten Commandments.
 War is a transgression of eternal law.

Hate is sin,
 Lying is sin,
 Retaliation is sin,
 Murder is sin,
 Rape is sin,
 Theft is sin,
 Idolatry is sin,
 and war is all of these.

War is contrary to the teachings
 of Jesus and the will of God.
 War separates man from man,
 man from God.
 War is incompatible with the teaching,
 example, and spirit of Jesus Christ.
 War is contrary to the scriptures:
 "Love your enemies,"
 "Overcome evil with good,"
 "Put up your sword,"
 "Pray for those who abuse you,"
 "Do good to those who hate you,"
 "Whatsoever you wish that men would
 do to you do so to them."

All war is sin.
 -Ora Huston

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 1, 1934
 THE FINAL WORD
 Grant Mahan

When we hear a statement made we like to know what authority is back of it. To the Jews, Moses was the final authority; if Moses said a certain thing, that ended all controversy. And the majority of the Jewish nations still cling to the same authority. They had been convinced that Moses spoke the words of God. It is well to know authority, to be certain that it is dependable, and then to hold to it through evil report and good report. But it is better to be sure that our authority still is the highest before we stake too much on it, for one authority often supersedes another.

The Jews had been told that a new covenant would be given to them; but they could not believe, or rather they would not believe, that the law of Moses would pass away and a new law be given to them and to the whole world. So they refused to hear the new giver of law; they opposed Him, misused Him, and finally brought about His death. And then they persecuted His followers. Jesus prayed that they should be forgiven, for they knew not what they were doing. Peter said they did it ignorantly. Paul spoke of them as being blind.

The former law of the Lord given to the Jews was not intended for all time; it was to vanish away and be replaced by a new and better law, a law that would last not merely for the age of our present world, but would be the standard of judgment for mankind before judgment bar of God. Jesus made that plain when He said His word would judge us in the last day. His law is the only law that is of vital importance. It has to do, not merely with our manner of living in this world; our reception of it and obedience to it decide what our life shall be in the great hereafter. His words are spirit and they are life; receiving and obeying them, we partake of His Spirit and His life; rejecting them, we shall not share with Him the blessed conditions of the eternal hereafter. He made it very plain to all who will read and think.

His word is the final word: it settles all controversy. We must meet it, for every man must come up for judgment, and the words which He spoke while on earth will decide all cases. There will be no postponement, there will be no appeal from the law as given; there will be no appeal to a higher, a supreme, court, for His court is the highest in the universe, and there will be no reviewing of the cases that come up for decision. There will be no writs of error, for there will be no errors in the decisions of the highest court of the last day.

We believe, we must believe, that all this is true in respect of the law of Christ; and yet how many there are in the churches who will not obey what He said. The number of those who think they know better seems to be on the increase; it is certain that from the pulpits of the land we do not get the same message that He preached and that He commissioned His apostles to preach to a world lost in sin. So we have on one hand the word of man as to what is necessary to salvation, and on the other we have the word of God. And we are choosing each day; sometimes we incline to the word of man and sometimes to the word of God, but we cannot get anywhere in that way; we must be God's people or the people of the world; there is no middle ground.

We need to consider earnestly each day where we stand and whom we are serving; for we cannot serve two masters; we can not serve God one day of the week and mammon the other six days. A great host of people is trying to do that, but their efforts will be in vain. We cannot serve God and mammon. We are bound to love one more than the other, and his we are whom we obey.

Let us not forget at any time that Jesus spoke the final word as to what we must do to be saved. There is no use trying to find a better way—there is none.

UNCLEAN FISH

Jesus spoke the parable of the fisherman's net in order to teach His disciples that wicked Christians will be separated from AMONG the just Christians on judgment day. He said: "Again, the KINGDOM OF HEAVEN is like unto a net, that was cast into the sea, and gathered of every kind: Which, when IT was full, they drew to shore, and sat down, and gathered the GOOD into vessels, but cast the BAD away. So shall it be at the end of the world: the angels shall come forth, and sever the WICKED from among the JUST, And shall cast them into the furnace of fire; there shall be wailing and gnashing of teeth." Matt. 13:47-50.

That parable gave a dramatic warning to every Israelite fisherman listening because from childhood he knew that the Law of Moses classified fish into two categories; they were either "clean" or "unclean". Part of his work as a fisherman was sorting fish; when he saw a fish with scales and fins, he would say "clean" to himself and would reject every other fish as worthless.

Jesus was showing His disciples that both fish and believers have two classifications. For example, fish are either clean or unclean and believers are either wicked or just.

The parable of the drag net teaches us that from among the MANY people who believe the gospel, only the FEW who live holy lives will be CHOSEN for eternal life. ("For many are called but few are chosen." Matt. 22:14)

Unfortunately, modern Christianity no longer teaches that Christians who commit willful sin will be culled from the kingdom of heaven. Instead, they have introduced the Satanic lie that a carnal (sinning) Christian will be saved from the "furnace of fire." Just as the serpent promised Eve, they promise the sinner: "Ye shall not surely die" when they tell them that a Christian who continues to break the Ten Commandments will still have eternal life — if he simply trusts in Christ.

This "Carnal Christian" heresy opposes Christ's teaching by saying ALL believers commit willful sin - some more than others (They are really saying there are no JUST believers; only justified rebels.) Those who teach this heresy say: "All believers will have eternal life because they believe, however"...they add, "the carnal Christian will lose his rewards."

The truth is: THE CARNAL CHRISTIAN WILL NOT ONLY LOSE HIS REWARDS - HE WILL LOSE HIS SOUL!

This deadly doctrine of a saved "Carnal Christian" is sweeping over Christendom like a plague and threatens the spiritual life of every believer who accepts it. Yet, the whole deception is based upon clever cliches, sophistries, and the misuse of a few obscure statements of the Apostle Paul. Let's examine some clear statements of Paul with an open mind. In his letter to the Corinthian church we read: "Know ye not

that the unrighteous shall not inherit the kingdom of God? BE NOT DECEIVED: neither fornicators, nor idolaters, nor adulterers, nor effeminate, nor abusers of themselves with mankind, Nor thieves, nor covetous, nor drunkards, nor revilers, nor extortioners, shall inherit the kingdom of God." I Cor. 6:9-10.

In that letter, Paul was addressing Christians and warning THEM of a serious deception that was giving believers who sin a false assurance of salvation. Obviously, that warning did not apply to the masses of mankind who were condemned already for their sin. No, Paul was warning the "fish" inside the gospel net (who were all believers) that their lives must be permanently changed to meet God's standard for eternal life.

Without doubt, Jesus and Paul both say the carnal Christian will perish in the final judgment. Paul's list of the characteristics that identify an unrighteous person is enough to condemn many of the professing church as a bunch of unclean fish. In fact, some of the Christian television "fish" are so rotten even the world thinks they stink!

How are most of the clergy dealing with this dreadful situation? Many pastors are simply "looking the other way" instead of correcting, rebuking, or disciplining their disobedient members. That is just another way of giving sinning believers a false assurance of salvation. To put it bluntly, many believers are being assisted toward the pile of unclean fish by their own pastor's ignorance or negligence. These pastors are not sent by God, because God disciplines and corrects those whom He loves. (Heb. 12:6)

On the other hand, Paul is an example of a faithful watchman. His messages against sin were like a trumpet's piercing alarm. So piercing, that though they might not be appreciated, they couldn't go unnoticed. The awakened people could then prepare themselves for battle—the war against the works of their own flesh. Fearlessly, Paul sounded his warning: "they which do such things (the works of the flesh) shall not inherit the kingdom of God." See Gal. 5:19-21.

...the carnal Christians of Rome knew they faced certain spiritual death when Paul gave this warning: "For if ye live after the flesh, YE SHALL DIE: but if ye through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, YE SHALL LIVE." Romans 8:13.

Question: Who are those who "live according to the flesh"?

Answer: Romans 8:5, "For they that are after the flesh DO MIND the things of the flesh;..."

Question: How do you recognize a mind that is "set on the flesh"?

Answer: Romans 8:7, "Because the carnal mind is enmity against God; for it is NOT SUBJECT TO THE LAW OF GOD,..."

Question: What will happen to the mind that is set on the flesh and will not submit to God's law?

Answer: Romans 8:6, "For to be carnally minded is DEATH;..."

Here is a summary of what Paul said about carnal Christians: Those who live according to the flesh are those who do not submit to God's law and their end is eternal DEATH!

BUT

"...if ye (Carnal Christians) through the Spirit do mortify the deeds of the body, ye shall live." Romans 8:13 continued.

Paul said: IF by the power of the Holy Spirit, The Carnal Christian will put to death (stop completely) the sinful deeds of the body his end will be eternal life.

As we examine those words of Paul, we must acknowledge that the carnal Christian will perish on judgment day and be tossed into the pile of unclean "fish." He offered no hope to the Christian who did not cease from sin.

We need to ask ourselves: "What kind of a FISH am I?"

Harold and Donna Kupp
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NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Mark Andrews is 24407 S. Overfelt Rd., Peculiar, Missouri 64078. Telephone 816-779-4204.

GENERAL CONFERENCE TAPES

Tapes are available again this year of General Conference. There are eight preaching tapes and two singing tapes.

- #1. Jake Ness - "Ambassadors"
Mark Andrews - "Integrity"
- #2. Rudy Shaffer - "The Christian's Witness in Business"
Edward Johnson - "The Christian's Witness in Personal Appearance"
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- #5. Galen Shelley - "Relax the Good Guy's Win"
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David Aungst - "Going For The Gold"
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Frank Shaffer - Mission "Answering God's Call to Service"
- #8. Phil Gish - "Young People's Message"
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Tapes are \$2.00 each. You can order by number on a post card or call 419-337-6251, Sister Vera Pike, 12967 S.H. 108, Wauseon, OH 43567.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

The Lord willing, we will have Revival at Mechanicsburg from August 28 through September 4, 1994 with Bro. Galen Shelly of Walnut Grove Congregation as our evangelist.

We welcome all to attend and worship God with us.

Brother Steven Beeman, Cor.

WAYNESBORO, PENNSYLVANIA

The Waynesboro Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings, September 4 through 11, 1994. The Lord willing Bro. Ray Stuber from the Shrewsbury Congregation will be our Evangelist.

Pray for these meetings as the seed is sown that lost souls would repent and each of us would be strengthened. Everyone is welcome to come and worship with us.

Sister Janet Shaffer, Cor.

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BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I STILL HAVE WORTH

Sometimes my hands may tremble
And my steps may falter, too.
But life is far from over
For I still have much to do.

For years I've served my Master.
I'll continue for awhile.
As long as God permits it,
I will give a word or smile.

If I can teach or comfort
Someone else along the way,
Then life is still worth something,
No matter what some might say.

Memories fade and bodies fail,
But to God I still have worth.
Pre-born, teen, mid-age or old,
He has placed each on this earth

-Gloria Smith

Selected by Sister Mildred Skiles

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

There are many questions that come to us during a lifetime. Some of these questions are what others ask us, trying to gain information. Some questions we ask ourselves as we meditate. Other questions we direct toward God.

Children are full of questions. Some seem almost nonsensical to adults, but adults forget that they have had a lifetime of living to learn the things that the children are seeing through virgin eyes. What seems commonplace to the adult is a whole new thing to children. Adults tend to forget that they were once children, with the same questions. Today's children also have a lot more to ask about as today's technology is more advanced. With world events exploding around their eyes and ears, it is no wonder that they have many questions on top of the general questions concerning life that children have naturally. In light of these facts and situations, what kind of answers can adults give to these questions? They can not be ignored if any rapport is to be established. Flippant answers can not be given if a serious attitude towards life is to be established. An untruth can not be used if any regard for the truth is to be established. Although the questions are monotonous and almost beyond answering, an attempt must be made in good faith.

There are many other questions that we must answer throughout life. Others will ask questions involved with work, government or recreation. We fill out many questionnaires and forms. These can be a simple recital of facts or they can be in-depth probing of habits and beliefs. Often this information can invite a deluge of junk mail and pestering phone calls. There are other questions directed at us to tap the wealth of information and wisdom that others might profit from.

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They seek our information to improve their lives.

Hopefully a Christian's life will inspire questions that will lead others to want to duplicate that Spiritual lifestyle. Hopefully they will ask the necessary questions so they too can have what they have seen in you.

Too often questions come that probe our motives, intentions and actions. Others will ask why we behaved in a certain way, perhaps because our behavior has not been as expected of a Christian. Sometimes these questions are asked in a critical way, but others ask them so we will think about our course and make needed corrections. It is good when only a question will be sufficient to cause us to repent and regain our way. Too many resist such a simple way of staying on course, instead they become angry or hurt by probing questions.

Our answers to all these questions may be given grudgingly, angrily, sweetly, lovingly or maybe not at all. Especially questions regarding Spiritual living need to be answered honestly, diplomatically and Biblically. An answer should be given to all who inquire concerning our faith and practice.

As we answer other's questions, we may desire to also ask some. We want to ask God some of the questions that pass through our minds. So many things happen that we just don't understand. When we meditate over these things but can't find the answer on our own, we need to seek His answer. We all need to meditate because we tend to get too wrapped up in the business of life and lose touch with God and His purpose for our lives. We forget to apply Spiritual solutions to our problems. We become so attuned to the world and its habits and methods that we forget what God would have us to do. Then we need a period of meditation and communication with God.

Whether we communicate through on-the-knees prayer or through reading His Word or through thinking upon the issues of life, we need to be communicating with Him. Too often we make a mess of our lives before we are willing to let Him give us direction. We consider His help and knowledge unnecessary until we prove that we are unable to handle life ourselves.

Too often we not only do not want to communicate with Him, but when we do, we ask the wrong questions. We are prone to ask, "Why me?", when we should be asking, "How can I better pattern myself after Thy Son?". We too often complain rather than search for our failures.

Sometimes we try to carry on a conversation with God; especially questioning Him about His ways, when we should be answering His question, "What have you done with My Son, Jesus?".

That is the most important question you will ever have to answer. It will affect not only your life in this world, but your eternal destiny as well. What is your answer?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

What if?

We live in a world of "what if's"! In fact, "what if" is a form of worry and lack of trust in God. Even secular psychologists teach us that people who live in the world of "what if's" experience anxiety and mental distress. They do not allow God to control their lives and look to Him in faith for direction day by day.

I would like to present some different "what if's" in this article. I pray that they will help you to look into your life and analyze it in regard to your commitment to Christ.

First of all, let me ask you a question. Would you serve Christ if He offered you nothing but Himself? If He did not offer you healing, would you serve Him? If He did not offer you success, would you serve Him? What if there was no prosperity, no worldly blessings, no miracles, no signs or wonders? Would you serve Him?

What if...instead of the painless living that we experience in America...we were to suffer cruel mockings, stoning, bloodshed and even been sawn asunder as the prophets of the Old Testament were.

What if...once again we had to take the spoiling of our goods and do it joyfully? Would we be prepared to do that and still understand Jesus as Lord of our life?

What if...instead of our beautiful homes and cars, we had to wander about in the deserts in sheepskins, hiding in dens and caves? Would we retain our trust in the Lord?

What if...instead of prosperity, we were destitute...had nothing at all! What if we were afflicted and tormented. What if the ONLY better thing provided for us was JESUS CHRIST? What then? Would we still follow Him as our Shepherd?

Jesus is sufficient. If we believe in Him, it is not what we gain but what He pours through us that counts. It is not that God makes us beautifully rounded grapes that is important...but that He squeezes the sweetness out of us. We cannot measure our life by worldly success but only by what God pours through us...and, of course, we can't measure that at all because it is so great.

I would call you to a better way than the "what if" kind of life. I would call you out of spiritual weakness. I would call you out of the inertia which might have already set in your life. I call you to a life of light and salt. I call you out of competition into unity. Don't worry about who is weaker and stronger...comparing yourselves among yourselves. Compare your life to Jesus and leave the "what if's" in His hands.

What if you are the victim? In Jesus you will be the victor. Christians have always thrived under rejection and triumphed over

severe persecution...whereas today's Christians are given months or years of counseling to overcome rejection and abuse. We not only have the "what if" syndrome but we have the "Oh, poor me" complex.

God may allow us to have our "slats" knocked out from under us at times that we might know that a life of faith is not a life of sentimental enjoyment of His blessings. Faith, by its nature, must be tried. "THOUGH HE SLAY ME, YET WILL I TRUST HIM."

Learn that sometimes instead of gushy affirmation, people need to be helped to face up to reality. At times true love will give shock treatment instead of saccharine.

"What if" you just trust Jesus with all of your heart and mind? Wouldn't that be the best attitude that you could have in your life. "What if" you just live by faith and let Jesus take your life and move it according to His will?

Brother Len Wertz

1994 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Saturday P.M.

Bro. Tom St. John opened. II Chron. 5:11. They sang with musical instruments to praise the Lord. Psalms 113. Praise ye the Lord.

Bro. James Eberly. II Thess. 1:3, 2:15. Stand Fast and Hold. The Apostle Paul had a concern for the church. He saw there was trouble in that church. There were false teachers in the church. Let's hold fast to our beloved church. In Thessalonica the church became very discouraged. The Apostle Paul told the church to put their focus on the Lord. We should be willing to spread the Gospel to others. There were false prophets in the church of Thessalonica. We have many false prophets here to deceive us in the Lord's work. We will have to make sure that we stay with the Holy Word. The Bible says there will be wolves in sheeps' clothing. Are we holding fast to the things of the church that we have been taught? We are our Brother's keeper. Let us have Brotherly love. We must be students of the Bible. We should study and show we are approved by God. Let's make sure that our vessels are pure to God. Let us study and live by God's Word. Make sure we are standing on the solid rock of Christ. We have to keep true and faithful to our Heavenly Father.

Bro. Mark Andrews. Keeping Promises. Genesis 39. Integrity. Joseph was a man of integrity. It is complete. We should have integrity in our lives. Joseph did not commit sin with Potiphar's wife. He did not lose his integrity. Job had great integrity. His wife told him to curse God and die. Job said "No." He still had his integrity. Satan is still at work. Young people keep your integrity and live true to God.

The church as a whole may be deceived by Satan if we lose our integrity. Leadership in the church should be guided by integrity. Jesus said, "Be ye therefore perfect, even as your Father which is in heaven is perfect." He that has clean hands and a clean heart is pleasing to the Lord. If you are young always keep integrity in your heart. Are we holding on to integrity in our teaching of the Holy Word and the guidelines of the church. Let integrity be the guideline of each and everyone of us.

Bro. Robert Lehigh closed. Is the church worth holding on to? Yes, the church as a group of believers is worth holding on to.

Sat. Evening

Elder Dale Jamison opened. Matt. 5:1-16. Let your light shine before men that they may see your good works and glorify your Father which is in Heaven.

Elder Emmert Shelly. II Tim. 1:1-14. Jesus Christ is coming back for His church. We don't know how soon. Many people read us as their Holy Bible. We should show a good light for Christ. Many people read the Holy Word and try to make us believe that they can lay back a portion of it. They say its not important that we stick to the old tradition. People try to forget the sound words of the Bible. Turn to the Word of God to find fruit. We must accept the Word of God. We know our Savior. Do you renounce Satan in all his pernicious ways? Hold fast to the Holy Word. Its a joy when we can think of our Christian Heritage. There are many who have deep roots in the church who are holding fast. Parents have a great responsibility to teach their children the Bible. Mothers help teach your children the Bible. Be rooted and grounded in our Lord Jesus Christ. It will keep them from the great evils of this world. Satan is there at all times to deceive you. He wants to bring division. He will not lead you into the truth of the Holy Word. Christian people are the salt of the earth. We must continue on in the work. Ask the Holy Spirit to help give you knowledge to understand the truth of the Holy Word. We must Place our faith in the Lord Jesus. Let us hold fast to the sound Word of God, and never depart from it.

Sunday Morning Worship

Elder Eugene Kauffman. Numbers 14. Our own private fears could hinder others in many ways. By the power of God you overcome those fears.

Sunday A.M.

Elder Robert Carpenter opened. Acts 26:1-24. We have many opportunities to be witnesses for Christ.

Elder Rudy Shaffer. Luke 12. The Christian Witness in Business Decisions. A man is known by the decisions he makes. Where are the lost? Where is the majority of the lost? They are among the world. What is our witness? What do we see on the Lord's day? We try faithfully to honor God. In making a decision for God we should be looking forward to our Eternal Home. We should be honest in our dealings. What is our

Christian testimony? In making decisions we need integrity. What is the value of a soul? Honesty means very much in our daily lives even if we have to suffer loss.

Elder Edward Johnson. Romans 12:1, II Corinthians 6:17-18. The Christian's Witness in Personal Appearance. Personal appearance definition - "Act of becoming visible to the eye, and the action of the person appearing before the public." Except a man be born again he cannot enter the Kingdom of Heaven. Be a good witness to the world. The prayer veil is a good witness to the world. How do we appear during the week before the world? Abstain from all the appearance of evil. How are we dressed when we get there? Plain dress is gradually becoming less among our plain churches. What is our witness as we walk every day? Let our light so shine that we may glorify our Father in Heaven. If the righteous scarcely be saved where will the sinner be? Our glory is the cross of Jesus Christ who died on it so we can be saved and gain Eternal Life.

Sunday P.M.

Elder Milton Cook opened. Revelation 1. John shared his witness in Revelation 1. This has been a salvation for all of us in our Christian life.

Elder Dennis St. John. The Christian Witness in Response to Legislation. What is our witness to legislation? What is our conviction as Christians? 1. Our attitude and respect for our Government. 2. Be loyal citizens to our government as long as it does not conflict with God. 3. It is commendable to stay neutral. We will deal spiritually with the sins of the world. 4. Keep resistant to worldly problems. 5. Do not join too closely to other groups of the world. 6. Live our lives separate from the world. 7. Be careful and study rising issues that are coming up into our lives in this day. 8. We need to have the habit of praying that the government will enact rules that we can abide by. 9. Be willing to suffer for the teaching of the Heavenly Father and live faithfully. 10. Do not become politically involved. 11. Do not get involved in social issues. 12. Be an effective witness in the matters of legislation.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

FLIES IN THE OINTMENT

Exodus 8:24, "And the Lord did so; and there came a grievous swarm of flies into the house of Pharaoh, and into his servants'

houses, and into all the land of Egypt: the land was corrupted by reason of the swarm of flies."

Ecclesiastes 10:1, "Dead flies cause the ointment of the apothecary to send forth a stinking savour: so doth a little folly him that is in reputation for wisdom and honour."

It is hard to find something good to say about few things in life, but flies are one of them. Yet, even they can help teach us spiritual lessons.

Flies can be symbolic of the trials and tribulations of life. Even as God sent the flies into the house of Pharaoh, his servants' houses and into all the land of Egypt, so He may send "flies" into our lives. We completely reject the teaching that God will strike a rebellious individual dead and take them to Heaven, but the Scriptures do seem to teach that we can go so far in rebellion that both physical and spiritual death would be our lot. For in I John 5:6 we read, "If any man see his brother sin a sin which is not unto death, he shall ask, and he shall give him life for them that sin not unto death. There is a sin unto death: I do not say that he shall pray for it." We know that flies have been responsible for plagues of sickness in various times in history. We believe God may use sickness as a means of drawing us back to Him, or even as a means of drawing us closer.

But not all trials, tribulations and physical death is because of sin in our lives. There are some "flies" that come into our lives that are hard to understand. Recently on the return trip from a historical site we stopped at a restaurant for supper. When the meal was delivered a swarm of flies accompanied it. The next thing I knew a fly was struggling for his life in the broth of my pot pie! Without really thinking, I picked the fly out and smashed it with my fingers. If I had not been with close friends, the incident could have been quite a source of embarrassment, even more so than it was. I could have reacted to this incident in at least three ways. I could have made a loud commotion attempting to bring attention to the problem and a bad reputation for the restaurant. I could have quietly called a waitress to the table and expressed my displeasure in a low voice. Or I could just dispose of the dead fly and continue eating my meal. I chose to do the latter. By the same token, when "flies" come into our lives we can react in several ways. Some reactions will only make the problem worse while others will demonstrate a willingness to allow God to have His will in our lives.

In Ecclesiastes we have a different type of spiritual lesson given to us concerning flies. "The ointment of the apothecary" refers to a type of perfume. In our day it would be similar to an air freshener. In place of the solid air fresheners we have today, in times gone by a bowl of sweet smelling liquid would often be placed in a room. If dead flies were allowed to accumulate in it, it would soon give a vile odor in place of the sweet fragrance desired. Fellowship is a type of sweet perfume that gives the church a sweet smell, spiritually speaking. When the "flies" of anger, jealousy, and bitterness are allowed to enter the ointment of love and die therein, the sweet fragrance of fellowship is ruined and replaced with the stinking savor of conflict.

Therefore, if the "flies" in our lives come from God let us examine our heart and turn from our sinful ways. If they come for unknown reasons let us accept them as a means of drawing us closer to God. However, we should do everything within our power to destroy the "flies" that bring disturbances into the church.

Failure to allow Jesus Christ to be Lord and Savior of your life will bring eternal torment to you, much worse than the torment of flies. Salvation will eventually bring you to an eternal home where neither physical or spiritual flies will bother you anymore.

Brother James M. Hite
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ADVICE FROM A FRIEND

If you could, I wish that you would bear with me for just a few moments. Perhaps what I have to disclose will be worthwhile to you. My story begins about thirty years ago, when I was in my teens. I began to get the attitude that my intelligence was unsurpassed and that my parents were blessed with an overabundance of ignorance. They couldn't tell me anything. Nobody else could, either. Their advice was unwelcome, and as I saw it, unnecessary.

At a relatively early age I had my entire future mapped out. I had gotten this idea from reading a book when I was twelve. By age seventeen I would have made my first million dollars. By eighteen I would have visited all fifty states. By twenty my goal was to scale Mt. Whitney and Mt. McKinley and travel the major bodies of water in North America. I had every month of every year mapped out until the age of forty, when I would retire. I was forty last year and of all the goals I set as a youth I achieved a grand total of ONE. Pretty admirable, don't you think?

The truth is a person needs more than just confidence. The best thing I could have done was the thing I purposely set out not to do, and that was to heed the good advice of my loving parents.

ALWAYS consider what an older person has to say, even if they approach you with a haughty attitude. The most intelligent, the handsomest, and the most capable of us stumble blindly into life. Naked we came into this world, and for many years we are TOTALLY dependent upon others. That condition does not change overnight. Even King David and King Solomon had their trusted advisors, and so must we. Solomon's advice would be especially appropriate here: Remember thy creator in the days of thy youth. My youth was misspent because I didn't listen....

Some of you are young, with a long life ahead of you, or so it appears. Those of us who are traveling down the road ahead of you implore you to seek the Lord, while He is yet available. We that have wasted all or part of our lives can be thankful that nothing bad befell

us during those times, and that God's grace still abides and that we were able to make it in. I would not want to take the chance today. Where would we be except for those faithful Brethren who pointed the way before us?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

August 15, 1934
THREE REQUISITES
J.F. Britton

We usually think and speak of the 15th chapter of I Corinthians as the major and champion chapter on the resurrection. It is in this chapter that the apostle Paul gives his strong stirring, thrilling and vigorous exposition of the resurrection of the Redeemed.

But in this article, the writer wishes to call your attention to the 58th verse of this same chapter, "Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

Here, Paul urges and pleads for three indispensable requisites which are as follows: "Be ye steadfast," in the faith and practice of the gospel, in habitual lively confidence of the resurrection, the day of judgment and the retribution of eternity.

"Unmoveable," not, "...tossed to and fro, and carried about with every wind of doctrine, by the sleight of men, and cunning craftiness, whereby they lie in wait to deceive." (Eph. 4:14.) And be not discouraged by opposition of difficulties: not led even to doubt about the complete fulfillment of all which God has declared. Hence Paul is pleading for stability, firmness and loyalty to "...the faith which was once delivered unto the saints." (Jude 3.)

"Always abounding in the work of the Lord," here Paul is pleading for a life of active service consecrated to God. "Forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord."

A wonderful statement indeed; a divine guarantee "reward" for a life of service "hid with Christ in God." Therefore Jesus said, "Marvel not at this: for the hour is coming, in the which all that are in the graves shall hear His voice, And shall come forth; they that have done good, unto the resurrection of life; and they that have done evil, unto the resurrection of damnation." (John 5:28-29.) Thus we see that Jesus refers to the resurrection as a guaranteed certainty.

No wonder Paul breaks forth in a current of enthusiasm in the certainty of knowing that "...there is laid up for me a crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous Judge, shall give me at that day: and not to me only, but unto all them also that love His appearing." (II Tim. 4:8.)

And being inspired by that unceasing urge within him, Paul gave vent to his feelings as follows: "But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being made conformable unto His death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." (Phil. 3:7-14.)

Thus we see Paul is contending and pleading for a progressive church, characterized and governed by conservative and gospel principles. Therefore it stands to reason that "God had foreordained and decreed that His church shall be both executive and assiduous, in her "Master's business."

Among the last words Jesus spoke to His apostles were these, "But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth." (Acts 1:8.) This statement alone verifies the fact that Christ intends that His church is to be a live, active evangelical church in her mission in the world.

Hence Jesus wants "...a peculiar people, zealous of good works." (Titus 2:14.) "That he (Jesus) might present it to himself a glorious church, not having spot, or wrinkle, or any such thing; but that it should be holy and without blemish." (Eph. 5:27.)

Therefore the church of Christ is not a place of lethargy, for grouchers, grumblers, mote-pickers and self aggrandizers. But it is a place for constructive workers for the glory of God; and the upbuilding of His kingdom in the world. Ever looking unto Jesus, the "Author and Finisher" of our faith.

And so it is not hard to see the necessity, and the importance of the three "requisites" mentioned in this article.

Paul would have us to be "steadfast" in the faith of our Lord Jesus Christ. And be "unmovable" in our attitude and covenant vows, we made when we were baptized; and he would have us be "always abounding" and active in our Lord's service; forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." Amen.

OUR LOVING SAVIOUR

A virgin shall bear a son
His name shall be Immanuel.
Interpreted, "God with us"
With us here on earth to dwell.

In Bethleham of Judea
Nearly two thousand years ago,
The perfect Son of God was born,
His birth did set the world aglow.

King Herod tried to kill the Christ
Joseph, in a dream was told.
That they should flee to Egypt
Until word came, "They should hold."

Following the death of Herod
Another dream, with Joseph asleep.
God told him to return to
Israel, God's commandment to keep.

Being warned by God, he came
In a dream, he saw this scene
That he should dwell in Nazareth
And be called a Nazarine.

After a period of silence
While John was preaching the Word,
In a river named Jordan
He baptized Jesus, the Lord.

He was the greatest teacher
That ever graced the earth.
The Son of God took on flesh
He was famous from His birth.

He was sought by multitudes
He preached, He healed, He led,
He performed many miracles
He restored life to the dead.

His span of life on this earth
As a middle aged man, He died.
His death was not a natural one
Upon the cross He was crucified.

His death on the cross paid
For the forgiveness of all sin.
He shed His blood on Calvary
Through Heavens gates we can enter in.

They begged Pilate for Christ's body
To prepare it for the grave.
They anointed it for burial,
In a tomb, much like a cave.

Because He said, "I'll rise again"
To make sure that He would not.
They used every precaution known
But they found the tomb empty, then what?

The women, early in the morning
Seeking He who opened prisons
An angel appeared and said,
"He is not here, He is risen."

They ran to tell the disciples
And spread the news abroad
If they go to Galilae
It's there you will find the Lord.

Christ foretold them He would rise,
Again, after three days in the grave
They understood not what He meant.
He died that we might be saved.

The guarded tomb couldn't hold Him in
He arose just like He said.
He knows all about the living,
He knows all about the dead.

Up from the grave He arose
While walking upon this earth,
Many witnesses saw Him alive
Through Him we experience a new birth.

He completed His mission on earth
It was time for Him to depart.
While standing with His disciples
His words touched their every heart.

He ascended back to Heaven
They stood watching as He went.
Christ completed His commission
For the purpose He was sent.

He is now at God's right hand
Interceding for you and me.
He's coming again to earth
How joyful that time will be.

Brother Paul R. Myers
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NEWS ITEMS

NOTICE 1995 GENERAL CONFERENCE

1995 General Conference will be June 3 through 7, 1995. This was the only time we could rent the grounds for 1995.

Brother Rudy Cover

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Bro. Robert Lehigh is R. 7 Box 7840, Spring Grove, PA 17362. His telephone number remains the same.

LITITZ, PENNSYLVANIA

Elder Fred Pifer from the Dallas Center, Iowa Congregation has consented to be our evangelist. He will be bringing God's Word to us September 9 through 18, 1994.

We ask an interest in your attendance and prayers for lost souls and a strengthening for the unity of the church.

"And when these things begin to come to pass, then look up, and lift up your heads; for your redemption draweth nigh." Luke 21:28.

Are we ready? Are our loved ones saved?

Sister Dorcas Myers, Cor.

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

The Bethel Congregation was privileged to enjoy another revival of Spirit-filled messages brought forth by Bro. Ray Stuber. The seed has been sown and the warning given to those outside the fold. The results will depend on what we choose to do with the Word. May the Lord bless Bro. Ray in his further services for the Lord.

Now, the Bethel Congregation, is looking forward to our Fall Revival, Lord willing, with Bro. Dennis St. John as our speaker. The meeting will begin September 18 and run through 25. Come and enjoy the services with us. Pray for the meetings that souls might be saved while the door of opportunity is still ajar.

Sister Della Ebling, Cor.

One bitter feeling toward another shuts out the whole sunshine of God's love.

He is armed without, who is innocent within.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1994

September 4 - The Unknown God - Acts 17:1-34.

1. Name the two types, or groups, of people who followed Paul.
2. Explain Paul's method of making Christ known on Mars Hill.

September 11 - Paul at Corinth and Ephesus - Acts 18:1-28.

1. Why could Paul say he was clean regarding the blood of the Jews?
2. What was the purpose of Paul's third missionary journey?

September 18 - Have You Received the Holy Ghost? - Acts 19:1-41.

1. Why had the believers in Ephesus not received the Holy Ghost?
2. Does God perform special miracles today?

September 25 - The First Day of the Week; Paul Instructs the Elders - Acts 20:1-38.

1. Why did the disciples break bread the first day of the week?
2. How did Paul say He served the Lord?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR SEPTEMBER 1994

September 4 - Separation - II Cor. 6:14-18, Lev. 20:22-27, Rev. 18:4-6.

1. What is meant by an unequal yoke?
2. Why should we be a separate people?

September 11 - Obedience - I John 3:21-24, Lev. 26:3-13.

1. How does God honor obedience to His commandments?
2. What has God given to help us obey?

September 18 - A Great Nation - Acts 7:17, Numbers 1:1-46, Rev. 19:1-2.

1. What was God's promise to Abraham regarding his descendants?
2. Who is included in the Spiritual Great Nation?

September 25 - God Keeps Promises - Rev. 3:12, Joshua 11:16-23.

1. How can we be overcomers?
2. What was Joshua's key to victory?

Paul Stump
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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 17

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

THE ALTAR IN THE ATTIC

The altar's in the attic
I've heard my father say,
Seems it wasn't needed
To kneel around and pray.

But do you feel we're missing out
On countless blessings there,
By kneeling with a brother
And his burdens help to bear?

Or if you've wandered from the fold
And want to come back home,
The step of faith's made easier
When you know you're not alone.

So bring down the altar
It may be one way to give
Our hearts and lives to Jesus,
And in his presence live.

Sister Martha Heer

ABOUT FACE

"Halt! About Face! To the rear, March!" is a command used to reverse the direction of a marching group. Other commands will alter their course, but this one will totally reverse the direction they are going. "About face!" is a total change in lifestyle and direction.

There are many commands throughout the Bible, as God addressed His people through the leaders He had provided for them. Under the Mosaic Law, much of the teaching was done through ritualistic sacrifices and offerings that were to be done at certain times and in certain situations. These rituals had been a shadow of the better things to come through the deeper, more personal law brought by Jesus Christ. In His teaching, Jesus emphasized the thoughts and the intentions that were inside a person, rather than outward appearance or law-keeping. Christianity is more than rule keeping, it is a vital, lively, pattern of beliefs and practices that touch the inner man and affects the outer man, as well.

The command, "About face!", describes Christianity. As a command it turns everyone around and heads them in the opposite direction, just as Christianity turns believers around and heads them in the opposite direction. If a person is sincere in wanting to be a Christian, there must be a definite halt to the old way of living and a motion made toward going the opposite direction. "About face!", means there is a turning point that is noticeable in the convert's life. What is noticeable is not only a change in outward appearance and activity, but also in the controlling emotions and intentions hidden in the heart.

The heart and the mind of the "turned about" one will be changed. The terms used to describe this change give evidence that a change

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is expected. Dramatic changes are heralded in such terms as, "The New Birth", "Being Born Again", "Conversion", "Transformation" and "Redemption". Each of these events are dramatic, sudden and life-changing.

A physical birth is certainly a dramatic event. A new baby, no matter how small, could never be placed inside its mother's womb again. The baby's environment has changed very dramatically in a short span of time. The Christian's rebirth will also be a dramatic event. After birth the baby develops and in a few months has learned a whole range of new behaviors, that are totally foreign to his previous life in the womb. The new Christian will have a new heart and mind that will propel him into new patterns of thought and activity. What would have been totally foreign to him in times past, now becomes his accustomed way of life.

A conversion speaks of a change that is total. What was one thing in the past has become something else now. When electricity is converted from AC to DC or vice-versa, there is a change made in the way that electricity is delivered to the appliance it powers. A converted person has a new power source. Earlier he had been empowered and controlled by Satan to do his bidding. After conversion, the Holy Spirit becomes the Christian's power source. With God's power, that man can and will do mighty works that he could never have done before. He now has the power to make wise choices that will affect his service for God and for his own Spiritual well-being.

A transformation is related to a conversion, except it especially speaks of the change in the working of the mind. A transformed mind will be thinking in ways that are approved of by God. The subjects that such a mind dwells on will be profitable for the Spiritual life and for the betterment of others. It is no longer a mind controlled by sin, Satan and self.

Redemption speaks of a soul purchased by God. Man through his own means and desires has sold himself out to Satan and allows him to have control over him. God has paid a great price, in the sacrifice of His Son, Jesus Christ, that He might buy him for His purposes. No longer should that man's life be lived to please either Satan or himself. It should be lived to please God since He paid the greatest of all prices to redeem him.

The Christian is a new creature. The old way of thinking and living are done away in Christ, so new thoughts, activities and attitudes can take control. The grace of God is great in providing for this change, however there is a need for the Christian to express that change through his words, dress, activities and attitudes.

Have you turned "about face" and begun to go in the opposite direction?

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

Who am I?

Many people today wonder who they really are. They seem to feel a great deal of insecurity. This is most likely due to the frustrating day in which we live. The New Age confuses people by telling them they are "gods." Psychology confuses them by giving them humanistic perspectives on life. Modern Christianity confuses them by offering a watered down, meaningless theology of liberalism. SO, WHO AM I?

The Bible gives us a clear picture of who I am. It leaves little to wonder about. I am the salt of the earth. Without me it could not be preserved.

I am the light of the world. Without me there would be only darkness and no chance of illuminating the world with hope.

I am a child of God. He is my Father and I can feel secure and loved in Him.

I am a part of the true vine and the life of Christ flows through me. It is He that energizes me and gives me life.

I am also a friend of Christ's. Can I just imagine that? He can be my best friend and one on whom I can always depend.

I am chosen by the Lord to bear fruit. As a fruit bearing Christian, I have an opportunity to feed the people around me the Word of Life.

I am Christ's hands and feet on this earth...His personal witness and am sent to tell everyone about Him. If you met a noted personality whom you highly respected, could you keep it a secret or would you tell everyone you know about the experience? I think the answer is obvious. Would you be challenged to do this with Jesus...as His personal witness?

I am a co-heir with Christ and will inherit His glory. I will enter His state of perfection and everlastingness and will ever abide with Him.

I am a temple...a dwelling place...for God. His Holy Spirit lives within me and that makes me special. He also requires that I keep this temple pure and clean that it might be a fit dwelling place.

I am a NEW PERSON. My past, no matter how morbid, has been forgiven and everything has been made new. I can live for today and look forward to the future...because I am new in Him.

I am at peace with God. Peace...sweet peace...a peace that passes all understanding. Everyone in the world desires it but outside of God, they cannot attain to it. I HAVE IT!

I am a saint. "Are you kidding," you ask? No. As a person who is holy and as one who has put on the garment of righteousness, I am fully clean.

I am God's handiwork...created by Him...and created in Him to do

His work. To be a finished product of the Great Creator should be a goal that is ever before me.

I am a citizen of Heaven with all of the rights and privileges of that Kingdom. Along with the other members of the family of God, I will receive the inheritance that He has promised to me.

I am an expression of the life of Christ because He IS my life and I reflect Him in every way...on every day.

Ultimately, I am NOT the great "I am"...but by the grace of the Lord, I AM WHAT I AM. It is He who has chosen me... as a part of His chosen race, His royal priesthood, His holy nation. I BELONG TO HIM. I KNOW WHO I AM. I AM HIS.

Brother Len Wertz

1994 GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from August 15, 1994 Issue

Elder Hayes Reed. The Christian Witness in Evangelical Vision. Acts 2:41-42, Acts 4:16-18. Were these Scriptures fulfilled? God's Holy Spirit can be poured out among us. Reach out, do all we can to help the unsaved learn to know Christ. The Word of God is quick and sharp as a two edged sword. Let your light shine that the world can see the need to learn more about the Holy Scriptures and serve the living God. To be a good missionary show love and understanding to them to be successful. The prodigal son saw his mistake and decided to go back to his father. The father was very glad to receive his son back home.

SUNDAY EVENING

Elder John Peffer opened. Daniel 1:8-14;17. Daniel had a purpose in his heart. We need to have respect for the law of God. We need to search our own hearts, to see whether the Spirit is working in our own hearts.

Bro. Philip Gish. Young People's message. I Timothy 4:12, II Timothy 3:1. Young people shine like the Heavens. Satan tries to deceive you. Get a vision from God. Where there is no vision we will perish. We can forgive ourselves and be willing to forgive others. We can be victorious if we bend our knees in prayer and ask our Heavenly Father to help us. Love casteth out fear. How do you choose a mate? An addictive mate can mean many sorrows. This can be a very bad problem in a marriage. Do not be addicted to sports. You need addiction of the Holy Bible and our Heavenly Father. Immoral temptation and infidelity is found in eighty seven percent of teenagers. They have AIDS due to immoral temptation. The greatest Christian marriage is living true to Jesus Christ. Love is always a command. It is

the will of God. Our feelings will change if we ask the Lord to help control our selfishness. Can you control that feeling? Try to manipulate any problem that comes before you. Young people what do you read? Poor sinful literature can be harmful to the mind. Be careful what you read. This sinful reading can lead your minds to destruction. For loneliness some listen to music all the time. We are leaving the Lord out. Take time to talk to your Lord. Honor older persons when possible. Where there is no vision the people perish. Bring any of your problems or hurts to the Cross. Ask Christ to help.

Elder William Heisey closed. In our younger life we pick a person here to follow. We should choose the Lord Jesus to follow. Let us be addicted to God. Heaven is something to look forward to after this life. We need to be ready when it comes our time to leave this world. We need to have our souls ready to meet our Heavenly Father.

MONDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Elder Eldon Mallow. James 1. Jesus in the Word of God said, "I change not." There will be obstacles in our lives many times. Its important to us how we live. Are we living pleasing to God? A double minded man is unstable at all times. We need the Lord to help us through all the temptations in our lives. What effect does God's Word have on our lives? We should be doers of the Holy Word.

MONDAY A.M.

Bro. Kevin Funk opened. Mark 8:34-38. Every one of us are ministers to the church. We must follow Christ in our daily lives.

Bible Study - Adults: The Troubled Heart - Psalms 55.

Children: Running From God - Jonah 1:2.

Bro. Marlin Marks. Vision Vacuum. Proverbs 29:18. Some people lose the vision of the Lord. We have the Holy Spirit as our vision. We have the Word of God to lead us and guide us. We have a clear thinking in the light of God's Word. Sometimes our vision is empty. God has appointed unto man to worship something. God has given us a vision of His Holy Word. Sometimes all we want is self satisfaction. We forget about God and what He created us for. What is God's plan for your life? Do we have some goals to please God? Are you available for your calling of the Lord to do His work in your life? We need the conversion and the Holy Spirit to do the work of God. After we get the vision we must teach the Word of God to someone so they can learn about Christ. Tell the story of Jesus and His love. We can't have victory to follow the Lord unless we get the vision. Do we ever get our vision bothered in some way? Can we catch a vision of Jesus Christ and the cross? What is going to show us the way? God's Word will help and we need lots of prayer if we lose that vision. Lots of times a vision is the matter of attitude. The World is always changing. The Word of God will never change. Christ is coming again very soon. We are called to minister all around us. Carry out that faith of the Lord. The poorest Christian is the one who lost the vision of the Lord. If we

are without a vision we are Spiritually blind.

MONDAY P.M.

Bro. David Rice opened. Galatians 1. Paul was an Apostle. He was a willing worker for Christ. An Apostle is a messenger for Christ. An Ambassador represents God unto the world. The people then glorified God through Christ.

Bro. James Meyers. Psalms 24:1-5. We live in a day of impurity and immorality. Impurity affects our lives in many ways. We need purity in the heart and in the home. We need to be alert, it is critical in the day that we live in. We must diligently direct the minds of our children. We should set the standards in our children's minds. We need to teach our children modesty in our home. Why does God want it to be taught in our home? Keep immoral catalogues and Christian Romance Magazines out of our homes. These defile the minds of our young people. Keep that purity in your mind.

Bro. Galen Shelly. II Corinthians 15. Imprinting a Pattern of a Natural Image. The first thing we see when we are born is sinners. We are the image of likeness of God. The devil tries to deceive us for this reason. All of us want a great bargain in life. We settle for something less. Daniel 11:28, 31-33. God is very sovereign. Daniel lived through the lives of four kings. Daniel stood very firm for sixty years among all these different kings. The Romans were called the Iron Legions. The images were all broken down but one stone. God has control of everything. The people think they have complete control but their minds will be changed when God says its enough and He brings this world to an end.

Bro. Kenneth Wilkerson closed. The events of this country are many but do not let it deceive you. Keep pure and faithful to God's Holy Word.

MONDAY EVENING

Elder Henry Walker opened. Isaiah 40:45. We are living in perilous times. We need to overcome the powers of Satan.

Elder Eugene Kauffman. Jonah 1:1-3. Nineveh. Jonah didn't have any compassion for the people of Nineveh. He at first didn't want to go and preach for the people as God wanted him to do. God cares about the unreached people who do not know about the Holy Word. Who would go to Nineveh? The Assyrians were a cruel people. Jesus died for all mankind. Jonah 3. The people turned their evil hearts and listened to Jonah through the Holy Spirit speaking God's Holy Word. Jonah's obedience to preach to the great city of Nineveh saved these people through the will of God.

To be continued
Sister Alice Heisey

"PROPHET" PREDICTS SEPTEMBER DOOM

Ever since the ascension of Jesus Christ into Heaven, "prophets" have tried to predict the end of the world. A careful reading of II Thessalonians shows that Paul was attempting to correct some misconceptions concerning the doctrine of the return of Jesus Christ. More recently, there was quite a little stir when someone predicted that the rapture would occur in 1988.

Now, Harold Camping, who owns Family Radio, has decided that the judgment will occur in September, 1994. Camping has devised his own system for dating Biblical events, and thinks that the "Tribulation Period" began in May of 1988. (This information comes from an article by the Associated Press.)

Evangelical Bible scholars declare Camping's theories to be completely groundless. His former church relieved him of his duties as an adult Bible class teacher because of his apocalyptic predictions.

Brethren and Sisters, let's not get caught up in such nonsense! Not only is it poor judgment to get all caught up in the groundless sensationalism of setting dates, it is anti-Biblical!

Jesus plainly stated, "But of that day and hour knoweth no man, no, not the angels of heaven, but my Father only." (Matthew 24:36) The same thought is restated in Mark 13:32. And in Acts 1:7, just before ascending into Heaven, Jesus said, "It is not for you to know the times or the seasons, which the Father hath put in his own power."

Rather, God's people are to be concerned about the spreading of the good news of the Gospel to the ends of the earth (see Acts 1:8). God has given us a mandate. That mandate is that we are to be witnesses of what God has done for us, and to OCCUPY till He comes (Luke 19:13). That means we're to be faithful to the task! We're not supposed to get all caught up with senseless sensationalism!

The fruits of such sensationalism are tragic. Some who are young in the faith get caught up in such predictions, and then when the prophecies fail to come to pass, they become disillusioned. Others, whose faith isn't as rooted and grounded in the Word of God as it should be, lose their faith in God entirely. These remind us of those who have made shipwreck of their faith (see I Timothy 1:19). Those who set dates for the return of the Lord will not be held guiltless. They will be accountable for the ones whose faith was weakened or destroyed.

On the other hand are scoffers who declare that the return of the Lord is nothing but a bad joke. These folks have been around for a long time, as well. Peter answers them by saying, "But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night." (see II Peter 3)

The Bible teaches that Jesus Christ will return to earth again! Jesus said, "I will come again" (John 14:3). The angels told the disciples who witnessed the ascension of Jesus, "This same Jesus

which is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come in like manner as ye have seen him go into heaven." (Acts 1:11) We need to be ready, because none of us know when we will be called to meet Jesus, whether in death, or in the air. But we are called to be FAITHFUL until that happens.

Brother Robert S. Lehigh

APPLIED THEOLOGY

Romans 15:13-14, "Now the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that ye may abound in hope, through the power of the Holy Ghost. And I myself also am persuaded of you, my brethren, that ye also are full of goodness, filled with all knowledge, able also to admonish one another."

First of all, we would like to give credit where credit is due. This article came about through the inspiration of an exhortation given by one of our deacons, Brother Lynn Miller, on the subject of POWER.

It is important to have the correct theology. Yet if the truth never leaves our mind and becomes a part of our daily life it is held in vain.

When the Apostle Paul speaks of "the God of hope" and "that ye may abound in hope" he is not speaking of a hope such as "I hope it rains today." Rather it is the hope we have through the power of the Holy Ghost which gives us the assurance that God is able to take care of body, soul and mind. This hope is, in reality, a confidence.

Paul speaks of this confidence in Philippians 1:6. "Being confident of this very thing, that he which hath begun a good work in you will perform it until the day of Jesus Christ."

In I Peter 1:22-23 we see how this theology is worked out in our every day life. "Seeing ye have purified your souls in obeying the truth through the Spirit unto unfeigned love of the brethren, see that ye love one another with a pure heart fervently: Being born again, not of corruptible seed, but of incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth for ever." How will God perform the work which He hath begun until the day of Jesus Christ? Through obeying the truth, according to Scripture. But how do we accomplish this? THROUGH THE SPIRIT. It is because we have been born again, not of corruptible seed, but incorruptible, by the word of God, which liveth and abideth forever that we now have the Holy Spirit living within us that gives us the power to obey the truth. We have to be careful in our zeal to expose the fallacy of unconditional eternal security that we do not take the glory away from God for our salvation.

If we are truly born again with the Holy Spirit within, then one of the evidences of this is that we will be able to have unfeigned love for the brethren. The dictionary meaning of "unfeigned" is "genuine; real; sincere".

II Corinthians 3:5 reminds us, "Not that we are sufficient of ourselves to think any thing as of ourselves; but our sufficiency is of God." We do

not have the power to love those who have a spirit of contention and incongruity. But we must remember that our sufficiency is of God! He can give us the power to love the unlovable.

Romans 8:32 tells us, "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all, how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?" Taken within the context we realize that Paul is speaking of spiritual, rather than physical, "things." Yet, the Scriptures assure us that God will supply our physical needs as well. This is another area where it is needful to apply our theology to our every day life. Do we truly cast our every care on Him?

In I Thessalonians 4:1-2 we find another practical application of our theology. "Furthermore then we beseech you, brethren, and exhort you by the Lord Jesus, that as ye have received of us how ye ought to walk and to please God, so ye would abound more and more. For ye know what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus." Paul says that with our applied theology we are able to admonish one another. We are to admonish one another on how we are to walk. But this can only be accomplished if we are "full of goodness." This does not speak of self righteousness but the goodness of the Holy Spirit. We must also be filled with all knowledge. This knowledge is "what commandments we gave you by the Lord Jesus." To admonish one another we must have a working knowledge of the Holy Scriptures. We are also to admonish others as to how they are to please God. Take the time to read I Thessalonians 4:3 through 12 to see how we are to please God. Simply put, it is to live a life of purity and show love to fellow Christians.

In conclusion, you may have all the correct theology in your mind but never had it applied to your heart. Saving faith is allowing God to apply the truth of Scripture to your heart. May our desire be to not only have the correct theology but to apply it to our everyday life.

Brother James M. Hite
8116 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 1, 1934
AVAILING PRAYER
Ida M. Helm

It is said that Abraham could be traced in his wanderings by the altars he left behind him. Abraham had an overflowing faith in God and so his humble, earnest prayers had power with God that brought results.

One of the crying needs of the church today is the restoring of the family altars in homes where they are being neglected and erecting ones where they have never been set up.

Jesus promised His people the abundant life. "I am come," he said, "that they might have life, and that they might have it more abundantly." Without Christ we are poor and famished and naked and blind, and powerless. We must lay hold of the promises God has given us if we would experience the blessings He has in store for us. The best way to begin the new day is for the whole family to gather around one common altar and together study a text in God's word, then all kneel in humble worship. When we open our hearts and souls and let the Son of righteousness shine in, the quickening power of the Holy Spirit will well up in our lives and overflow to the enriching of other lives and thus we become laborers together with God.

When we realize that it is God that gives the increase, vision of rich harvests in His fields will move us to more earnest prayer and greater endeavor in His service. Sometimes we sing:

He brought me out of the miry clay,
He placed my feet on the Rock to stay.

But there is danger that we forget the "pit from which we were digged," and settle down to a life of ease, not over anxious about those still in the pit of miry clay.

The Pharisee's prayer was, "Lord I thank Thee that I am not like other men." When one becomes puffed up in his prayers they become worthless. Words that are measured and polished to please the ears of men, while the heart is away from God are unavailing. Kingly authority belongs to God, and we should approach His throne of grace with reverence and humility and on bended knees with a heart and mind willing that He do what He deems best even if it is not what we desire and it seems good to us that we should have.

When we approach God in prayer we should remember that His kingdom ruleth over all, and that the church - Christ's body - of which each individual Christian is a part, is to be a blessing to all the world. The church was founded to represent Jesus when He should be gone. The church that the Christian represents stands between the Holy God and the world with its forces of evil that threatens to draw men's souls in perdition, and here is a great sphere of operation in the Christian's prayer. Do we realize that in the answer to our prayer we have an errand of mercy to perform in rescuing the perishing?

In our secret closet, alone with our God we may, through the influence of the Holy Spirit touch and move souls far away from us, and in the power of the Holy Spirit their lives may be changed from darkness to light. "The supplication of a righteous man availeth much in its working." (James 5:16 RV.)

It's not just any kind of praying that James is speaking of, but the prayer of a righteous man who is clinging to the righteousness which he has in Christ and is intent on rendering to God by the help of the Holy Spirit the offering of a righteous life. That is the kind of man and

prayer that can effectually lay hold on the power house of God, for God is moved by his prayer.

Brother, sister, our prayers for our own immediate loved ones and for our neighbor across the road and across the ocean are mighty forces when they have the power of Christ back of them. Then we can effectually pray the beautiful, "all containing" Lord's prayer:

"Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power and the glory, for ever. Amen."

IT IS OF THE LORD'S MERCIES

"It is of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because his compassions fail not. They are new every morning: great is thy faithfulness." Lamentations 3:22-23.

Do not toy with the mercies of the Lord, dear friend. The day is coming when all outstanding debts, and all hidden sins shall be accounted for. When you stand before the Great Judge of all the earth, will Jesus be standing beside you? Remember our relationship to God is not based on how we see ourselves, but rather on how God sees us. "...but all things are naked and opened unto the eyes of him with whom we have to do." (Hebrews 4:13.)

If God has truly been merciful unto us, then we ought to likewise be merciful unto others, and treat others as we would wish to be treated. "Looking unto Jesus the author and finisher of our faith;..." (Hebrews 12:2.) Walk with the Lord as if today were your last day on earth. His compassions are new every morning. We can draw upon the mercies of the Lord. He is faithful to all those that call upon His Name.

If under means of grace
No fruits of grace appear,
It is a dreadful case
Though God may long forbear.
At length He'll strike the threatened blow
And lay the barren fig tree low.

How long can the people of God forget Him? Is not the Old Testament a running account of the forbearance of a Holy God running out time after time? Was He not merciful? Look further at the case concerning the fig tree: "Then said he unto the dresser of his vineyard, Behold, these three years I come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and find none: cut it down; why cumbereth it the ground? And he answering said unto him, Lord, let it alone this year also, till I shall dig about it, and dung it: And if it bear fruit, well: and if not, then after that thou shalt cut it down." Luke 13:7-9.

Brother Lynn H. Miller
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OBITUARY

EDYTH KLINE

Sis. Edyth Mae (Upton) Kline, only child of Chester Willis and Mary Alma (Mohler) Upton, was born February 26, 1915, near Keyes, California.

As a little girl, she lived in the Modesto and Salida areas.

At the age of six she experienced the tragic death of her father. Three years later, the family unit was restored when her mother married Paul N. Whiting of Amhurst, New Hampshire, who had been a school mate of her late husband's. Mother lived in New England with her parents for the next three and a half years. She enjoyed many happy hours there, and often said God certainly gave her a wonderful stepfather who truly filled the void in her young life.

In 1925 she and her parents moved back to Salida. At the age of fourteen, she accepted Jesus as her personal Savior and was affiliated with the Old German Baptist Brethren Church. In 1963, she and her companion became affiliated with the Dunkard Brethren Church.

On October 5, 1932 she was united in marriage to Floyd Ganer Kline. This union was blessed with three children: Donald Floyd, Myrna Marie and Bonnie Lorraine.

She lived in the Modesto and Waterford areas the rest of her life. In March 1991, she sold the farm near Waterford, California and with her daughter Bonnie, moved to Salida, where she resided until her final illness. Mother spent many happy hours in her new home, and made several trips East to visit with her family whom she loved so much.

Late in 1991 she experienced heart problems, and as time went on, she was in and out of the hospital several times, due to her continued declining health. She suffered a stroke in the evening of June 13, 1994, necessitating another trip to the hospital, where Mother passed from time to eternity on the evening of June 18, 1994 at the age of 79 years, 3 months, and 23 days. She was preceded in death by her husband, father, stepfather, mother, and one infant half-sister.

She is survived by her three children, Donald Kline of Wakarusa, Indiana, Myrna Dutter of Goshen, Indiana and Bonnie Kline of Salida, California; five grandchildren, twenty-two great grandchildren, and one aunt, Miriam Blocher of Modesto, California.

She was a Godly, Christian woman, with a kind, compassionate, caring spirit, and a great sense of humor. She was a blessing to be around to all who knew her.

Funeral services were held at the Pleasant Home Dunkard Brethren Church on June 22, 1994 by Elder Mike Wray assisted by Bro. Rod Renicker. Burial was in Wood Colony Cemetery, where the services were conducted by Elders Rudy Cover and Hayes Reed.

We feel our loss very deeply, but know that Mother is now in the presence of the Lord with her loved ones who have gone on before her. We look with great anticipation to the time when we will all be united with her again in that Wonderful Place that God has prepared for those who love and trust Him.

The family wishes to express their deepest appreciation for all the acts of kindness shown to them during this time of bereavement.

May God richly bless you all is our prayer!

NEWS ITEMS NOTICE

All contributions for the Trustee Board should now be sent to Brother Dennis St. John, 21397-B50, Bryan, OH 43506. Checks should continue to be made out to Brother Warren Smith, Treasurer of the Trustee Board. Thank you for remembering the continuing needs of the Church through your generous contributions.

GRANDVIEW, MISSOURI

The Lord willing, the Grandview Congregation will be having Revival, September 4 through 11. Bro. Jan Heisey of Taylorsville, Mississippi will be our Evangelist. Weekend services will begin, Saturday, September 10 at 11:00 A.M. with Lovefeast at 6:00 P.M.

Pray for these meetings and those who still need a Saviour.

Everyone is welcome to come worship with us.

Sister Sandy Meyers, Cor.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation plans a Harvest Meeting, September 11, 1994. Bro. David Rice of the Englewood, Ohio Congregation will be the speaker. All are invited to these services.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Lord willing, the Dayton Congregation, will have a Revival Meeting, Wednesday, October 12, through 16, 1994.

Bro. Paul Nell from Walnut Grove, Maryland Congregation will be our Evangelist.

Lovefeast will be on Saturday evening, October 15 starting at 4:00 P.M. There will be a noon meal on Sunday.

We extend a welcome to all who can come and worship with us.

Sister Mary Rounds, Cor.

WAUSEON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation plans a Harvest Meeting,
September 11, 1994.

Bro. Philip Gish, of the Englewood, Ohio Congregation will be the
speaker.

All are invited to these services.

Sister Deanne Heisey, Cor.

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the Brethren and Sisters for sending me birthday
cards for my 85th birthday. Each card brought me enjoyment.

May the Lord richly bless each one of you.

In Christian love,

Sis. Lydia Kintner

THANK YOU

We really appreciated all who helped us celebrate our 85th
birthdays. We enjoyed the beautiful cards and nice messages. It was
encouraging to hear from so many Brothers, Sisters and friends. "We
thank you."

We pray God will richly bless you.

Brother Levi and Sister Grace Miller

•

The Christian on his knees sees more
than the philosopher on tip toes.

•

Some who planned to repent at the eleventh hour,
died at ten -thirty.

•

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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 18

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

MAY GOD LEAD US

May God lead us on the right way,
With a strong heart to resist
The cunning things that Satan wants,
So that he our lives can twist.

I pray for your soul's salvation.
Of course, I pray for mine, too.
I pray that God will always guide
Each thing that we say or do.

Let's not let Satan convince us
That any wrong can be right,
For we know sin is a darkness
That can't stand in God's light.

So when we feel like "flying high,"
Keep our feet on the ground.
We need a humble spirit, Lord,
That Thy grace may abound.

Irene Stout

TOO BUSY!

We live in a very busy and frenzied world. Although we think we have little to do with the world, we have become caught up in the world's busyness. We, like the world around us, have become involved in occupations, trades and professions. Unfortunately, this busyness can have an impact on our Christian lives. This impact can become challenges that either weaken or strengthen our Christian lives. We have not become members of God's family to be hermits. Christians must be Christians wherever they are. They must live the life of a child of God even in the midst of the world's busyness.

There is a certain amount of busyness that goes with life in general. Choosing a career and doing well in that field will bring much busyness. This busyness can become a trap. A person's focus can become centered on acquiring things, money or position. There is little time left for the other areas of life. We hear of this happening to executives of large corporations, but it is not limited to them. It happens also to people in other situations. Plumbers, electricians, painters, physicians, or even farmers can become so engrossed in their work and in acquiring its rewards that they lose sight of the other important areas of their lives. Many failed marriages and broken friendships can be traced to an unreasonable devotion to the pursuit of possessions, money and position. Wisdom is needed in balancing the efforts made in life. An effort needs to be invested in pursuing a career or profession, at the same time, there needs to be a moderation in that effort, so the other important areas of life are not ignored.

If a person does not give his best to his occupation, he is not being a true child of God. God expects His children to give their very best to their work. It would be dishonest to do any less and a Christian dare

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not be dishonest. The Christian owes a loyalty to his employer, it should not be his greatest loyalty, but nonetheless it should be of importance to him.

Work is important. A man who does not provide for his family is worse than an infidel. God has ordained that man should work. He has established weeks containing seven days. Six of these days are for pursuing an occupation or profession. The other day He has given as a day of rest and worship. He knew that men would grow weary and would need refreshment. Not only would his physical being need refreshment, but his spiritual being also. Therefore God has provided man with a day of worship, when both his body and soul can be revived and strengthened to face the challenges of another week. This is especially necessary for Christians today as they meet the greater personal challenge of working in the world's workplaces.

The conscientious Christian must allow time for the Spiritual affairs of his life. He must not allow business to compromise his day of rest and worship. He must do his Godly duty by supporting his family, not only materially, but also Spiritually. He must give time to his children. Even more importantly he must devote himself to his wife. He must be the Spiritual leader of his household. Not only must he lead, he also must have a time of Spiritual refreshment for himself. He especially needs a time of prayer and Bible study. Less formal than these times of devotion, he should have a time of meditation.

Too often the pressures of life drive each of us to keep as busy as humanly possible. We hardly have time to think. The enemy of our souls is pleased to have us this busy, for he does not want us to consider our ways and our relationships with others and with God. But God has told us to consider our ways very carefully. He has given instructions to examine ourselves to see how we stand compared to the faith that has been delivered to us. This needs to be done more often than on Lovefeast occasions. It needs to be done very often. We need to see how we measure up. Beyond this self-examination, we need to ponder about God: who He is and His attributes. We need to think about His Son, our Savior, and what He has done for us and what our response to Him should be. We need to consider the direction of the Holy Spirit in our lives. Are we letting Him lead us in God's will?

Our occupations and careers are important. Our labor as Christians is very necessary. But we need to be considering and pondering the deeper things of life and the God who has put us here.

What are you thinking about?

MCC

We live in deeds, not years; in thoughts, not breaths,

In feelings, not figures on a dial.

We should count time by heart throbs.

He most lives

Who thinks most, feels the noblest, acts the best.
Life's but a means unto an end; that end
Beginning, mean, and end to all things—
God.
Philip James Bailey

ARE WE LIVING IN A SICK SOCIETY?

If it were possible to quantify sin and make a chart which would display the wickedness of society over the years, what would it show? Are folks in the age in which we are living really a lot more evil than they were a century ago? Is there more sinfulness on the earth today than there was two or three thousand years ago?

While it may be impossible to be precise about the exact quantity of sin that abounds in any one society, there doesn't seem to be much argument that the amount of wickedness on the earth is increasing. I just recently learned of a father who wants to pull his eleven year old daughter out of public school because of the stabbings that take place there. And this school is not in a big city, but rather in a typical rural setting. When I went to public school, some of the worst problems the officials faced were running in the hallways and chewing gum stuck under the chairs! We've come a long way from that!

The Apostle Paul explains in Romans 1 that when a group of people refuse to worship God, but turn to worshipping themselves or animals or other idols, God then gives them over to uncleanness (Romans 1:24). According to the context of this passage, this uncleanness involves men and women yielding to the lusts of their hearts, and it has something to do with the dishonoring of their bodies. This seems to evolve into "body worship."

Do we have "body worship" in our society? What about all the people who want to get a good sun tan? They want to be about three or four shades darker than God made them because some false god dictates that to have a good tan is to somehow be more beautiful or more handsome. It has reached the extent that doctors have to warn (through the media) that it is harmful to be burned by the sun, and that folks who do this will be more likely to get skin cancer. And this is just one small example of the "body worship" that is going on around us.

As folks become more and more obsessed with "body worship," there is a second "stage." God has given them up unto vile affections (Romans 1:26). This would include homosexuality and lesbianism. It also includes other things that "go against nature,"

This passage makes it clear that it's bad enough when people abuse and degrade "natural things," which would include the sins of

adultery and fornication. When mankind insists on continuing into idolatry, and refuses to acknowledge God, it gets even worse.

Are the people in our world today honoring God, or are they living in idolatry? Do men and women in general seek the mind and heart of God before making decisions? Do they search the Scriptures when making decisions about how to live? No! The sad fact is that our judges are banning the posting of the Ten Commandments on the walls of schools and court houses! Instead of seeking God and His Holy Word for advice, the human mind is looked upon for the ultimate and final judgment.

As men and women continue in this evil, perverted way, and continue rejecting the knowledge of God, God gives them over to a reprobate mind. In this state, mankind wallows in a whole list of abominable sins, which are listed in Romans 1:28-32. The world certainly has had its share of evil all during the time that men and women have lived on the face of the earth. But are conditions worse today than you remember them ten or thirty, or perhaps fifty years ago?

Where is our nation, and our world, in relation to the amount of evil that exists in it, and the point where God will pour out His holy judgment, vengeance and wrath? The thought comes to mind that if God doesn't soon send judgment upon America for the abortions and sodomy that exist, He'll have to apologize to Sodom. Now, I don't believe that God will ever have to apologize to anybody! But Jesus does make the point that the inhabitants of any city that hear the Word of the Lord and reject it, are in greater condemnation than Sodom and Gomorrah (see Matthew 10:15 and Luke 10:12).

Where does "The Church" fit into all this? Jesus asks, "Nevertheless when the Son of man cometh, shall he find faith on the earth?" (Luke 18:8). The Bible indicates that there will indeed be a faithful remnant at the end of times. The obvious question then is, "Are you and I a part of that remnant?" Have our sins been washed away by the blood of the Lamb?

And to take this thought a step further, what does it mean to be "salt and light" in such a society as mentioned in Romans 1? Will the "salt and light" simply bury itself in a hole somewhere and "wait it out?" Or are we supposed to be our infiltrating society with the truth? Are we mandated to concentrate on keeping ourselves pure, or on being a thorn in the side of the folks in our ill-fated society?

While we are certainly told to keep ourselves pure and unspotted from the world, I don't believe we can make a case from the New Testament that we can be absolved from the responsibility of challenging those around us with the truths from God's Holy Word! So, let's be "up and at it!" We're not in some kind of a game. Rather, we are in a war—a battle between God and Satan! And we know who's going to win!

Brother Robert S. Lehigh

REMINISCING

I am thankful, at my age, I have a clear mind and can remember many happenings and events that took place seventy five years or more ago.

For instance, post cards were one cent each, while stamped envelopes were two cents each. Lean hamburger was two pounds for a quarter. Work shirts, overalls and matching jackets were one dollar each. A new Ford five passenger auto was three hundred twenty five dollars. Carpenters worked for seventy five cents to a dollar an hour. You could buy good meals at many restaurants for twenty five to sixty cents each, including coffee and dessert.

What I want to recall for the readers is how we worshiped and conducted services. Also, I want to picture the respect, love and devotion that was shown for the church and its members, years ago. The church was the focal point of interest in the community. Nearly everybody went to church, even those who were not members.

There were no radios, very few had telephones and but a few automobiles. I remember some of the first cars such as the Model T Ford, Durant, Detroiters, Pitman, Maxwell and Overland, none being made today.

The main mode of travel was by horse and buggy. During the Winter bob-sleds and cutters were common, when there was snow on the ground. Those who relied on buggies installed storm fronts which kept out the snow and rain. In the coldest of weather a lit lantern at their feet helped keep them warm. A horse blanket was put on the horses to keep them comfortable.

The lack of modern means of travel, communication, electricity and many other conveniences, that we presently enjoy plus most members making their living by farming, contributed much to the good, steady attendance at Church, Summer and Winter.

In many communities there was a general store, which carried a fairly good stock of what they actually needed. To church and to the store was about the extent of travel seventy five years ago.

At the church was a long buggy shed. It included two privies and a grain bin. Farmers, after harvest, filled the bin with oats and corn to feed the horses over Lovefeast time. They also provided cut wood for heating the church along with some coal. Much wood was burned during Lovefeast.

Most revivals were held in the dead of winter. Since most of the members were farmers, about all they could do was choring, which was the best time for them to attend revivals. Revivals were generally two weeks long. Sometimes, if there was exceptionally good interest, they continued into the third week.

At the close of the revival, if there were converts, there was a

baptismal service. It was oftentimes necessary to cut through thick ice to clear enough water to baptize. Instructions were given to the applicants, followed by the baptizing, which consisted of three immersions under water. One in the name of the Father; one in the name of the Son; and one in the name of the Holy Ghost. A final prayer and song by the members who viewed the baptizing concluded the service.

The majority of the revivals closed with a Lovefeast, which consisted of three parts, feetwashing, the Lord's supper and communion, all based on scriptures. This service was established by Jesus, Himself, in the upper room in Jerusalem. The feetwashing and Lord's Supper are recorded in John 12, which we read. The Communion (common Union) consisting on the bread and the cup is recorded in I Corinthians 10.

Before going into detail about the Lovefeast, proper, I wish to relate the necessary work required to prepare for the service.

The Deacons made a visit to each member to ascertain if they were at peace with all the members and were still in the faith.

They were asked if they had any suggestions that would be helpful in promoting Spirituality and unity in the congregation. Any matter that was brought in from the visit was taken care of.

Prior to the day of the feast, the members gathered to clean the church. Floors were mopped, benches, the pulpit, windows, dishes, silverware, pots, pans, tables and so forth were washed. Ice was put in the refrigerator to cool it down.

The church had a large membership so the preparatory work was shared among the members.

Farmer members donated the meat, eggs, cream, milk and butter. The deacon's wives met in one of their homes to bake the communion bread. An Elder or minister met with them at the start, read scriptures and led in prayer.

To be continued
Brother Paul R. Myers
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GOD'S GLORIOUS GRACE

Galatians 5:4, "Christ is become of no effect unto you, whosoever of you are justified by the law; ye are fallen from grace."

Romans 5:15, "But not as the offence, so also is the free gift. For if through the offence of one many be dead, much more the grace of God, and the gift by grace, which is by one man, Jesus Christ, hath abounded unto many."

Romans 5:19-20, "For as by one man's disobedience many were

made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. Moreover the law entered, that the offence might abound. But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound."

The book of Galatians, like the book of Hebrews, was written primarily to warn of the danger of falling from the Gospel of grace and returning to the law of Judaism, thus losing one's salvation. Individuals today are in danger of returning to a dependence on their own worth to save themselves. By doing so they are fallen from grace and in danger of losing their salvation.

Each letter of the word "grace" reminds us of a part of God's grace that we must embrace to avoid our falling from grace.

First of all, we must remember God's GOODNESS. Truly our salvation is a free gift. As we are told in Ephesians 2:8, "For by grace are ye saved through faith: and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God."

Secondly, we are reminded of our REDEMPTION. This gift of grace is by one man, Jesus Christ. It is through His shed blood on the cross of calvary that we have our salvation. As Ephesians 2:9 reminds us, it is "Not of works, lest any man should boast." When we fall from grace we depend on our own works to save us and we boast of our own goodness. Individuals convince themselves that God will not send them to a burning Hell because they have one time "prayed a sinner's prayer." They confuse the works of man with obedience to a holy God.

The third thing we must remember is God's ALMIGHTY POWER. "But where sin abounded, grace did much more abound." There is no sin on earth, save blaspheming against the Holy Spirit, that God can not forgive. Satan may try to convince you that you are too evil to be saved. But that is simply not true. You may have fallen from the faith and be convinced that there is no hope for a return. While Scripture does teach that it is possible to fall away and not be able to be restored, we believe this is not true of most individuals. Why else would I John 2:1 instruct us, "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous:?"

The fourth thing we must be reminded of is God's gift of the COMFORTER. While our selected verses do not directly speak of the Holy Spirit, we know that He is a part of the free gift of salvation. It is He that gives us the strength to continue in the faith. Sin is more often than not a result of falling from the faith rather than the cause of it. When an individual falls from the faith they no longer have the inner strength of the Holy Spirit to help them avoid falling into sin.

Our final thought on the subject is our ETERNAL LIFE. Romans 5:21 reminds us, "That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord." This is the ultimate gift of God's glorious grace.

In conclusion, God's goodness gave us the free gift of our redemption through the shed blood of Jesus Christ. God's almighty

power is able to overcome sin by applying this shed blood to our lives. When we are redeemed by the blood of Jesus Christ we receive the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, to lead and direct us. Thus we receive the gift of eternal life. May God be praised for His Glorious Grace!

Brother James M. Hite
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GENERAL CONFERENCE SERMON NOTES

Continued from September 1, 1994 Issue

Elder Milton Cook. Phil. 2:1-11. The mind of man is very essential to him. Are we thinking of Godly things. What can pass the different filters? Would we want just any thing to get into our minds? There would be places we would not go or things we would not do. There are two areas in our minds, the conscious and the subconscious. So let this mind be also in you as it was in Christ Jesus. Try to have the same attitude as Christ did in your mind. We are suppose to be as the family of God. The people made fun of Christ. When He came to that cross He was willing and made Himself as a servant. He came to the cross and was very obedient, died and paid the price for us. Is there any greater name than the name of Jesus Christ? Jesus is the glory of God the Father. Are we willing to give ourselves to Christ and live for Him? Is your mind as the mind of Christ?

Elder Dennis St. John closed. Do we have the mind of Job? Does God have a Ninevah for us? Your ministry might be to pray for the ministers and to grow in the Lord.

TUESDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Bro. Jason Reed. Deut. 4:1-10. How many of you would like to have success in your life. God has given the prescription for success. God and His Word is the prescription for success. Keep the commandments which the Lord gives to us. Come out from among them and be a separate people. Touch not the unclean thing.

TUESDAY A.M.

Bro. Fred Johnson opened. II Tim. 1:1-12. Knowledge is important. We pray that all things work together for good. We know we have something to look forward to when we leave this world.

Bible Study - Adults: Faith is the Victory - I John 5.

Children: The Servant Who Would Not Forgive - Matt. 18:23-35.

Bro. David Aungst. Going For the Gold. Matt. 6:33, Rev. 21:1-14. You are Gold for Jesus Christ. One soul is worth more than all the world. Eternal glory is yours and mine. We are gold for Christ. There are only a few in the world that follow Christ. Do we have a tender heart for the love of Christ? If we want a victory there is going to be a battle. Are you easy to work with in the body of Christ when we think about gold? People look for a good career. We do not want everything we can get. The real gold is Jesus Christ. Teach your children how to

live. The real gold is salvation, living for Christ. Use some of your money to help in mission work. Look to the cross and Jesus, that most precious gold. Hold fast, do not give up. If you are discouraged and have trouble, look to Jesus Christ. He is gold ready to help us. Do not get a divorce and remarry if problems arise. This sin is living in adultery if your former companion is still living. We should stay from divorce. Can we point unsaved people to the cross and help them to accept Jesus Christ? This is the greatest gold any one can receive. Gold is precious. The Church of Jesus Christ is precious to all of us. It is Gold to us. Get all the nuggets we can when we go to Bible Study and to church. Learn all of God's Holy Word that we can. These are great gold nuggets for us. Love your enemies, pray for your enemies. Are we ready to earn that gold medal, the New Jerusalem? We do not want that old rusty medal but we do want that gold medal that we are looking forward to. We need Christ and to be ready for that New Jerusalem. Live true to the commandments of Christ. We must get ourselves ready, by living true and faithful to the Holy Word.

Bro. Merle Sweitzer closed. We are nuggets of value.
TUESDAY P.M.

Bro. James Eberly opened. Luke 10:30-41. The priest and the Levite passed the injured man along the road in the ditch. The Samaritan came along and saw the injured man. He stopped and helped the injured man get relief. The Samaritan did a great deed at this time. This would have been pleasing to the Lord.

Bro. Frank E. Shaffer. Missionary Message. Matt. 21:1-9. We should be ready to go out witnessing for Christ. We get tow calls. The first call is from Jesus and the call to service what we are suppose to do. Hurricane Hugo is South Carolina was very severe. When disaster hits, lots of people work together regardless of the faith they belong to. When disaster hits people, they go into shock. After Hurricane Andrew in Homestead, Florida we helped put a roof on a German Baptist Church. Missionaries had many problems trying to help repair roofs and other damage done to buildings during Hurricane Andrew. A German Baptist couple completely lost their new home. They stayed in their garage for safety. They prayed to God for help. They were between two cars in the garage. After the roof blew off they were saved from this terrible Hurricane. The next morning their new house completely blew down. They stood and watched it blow down. The Government set up a place called Tent City for the people at Homestead to get refuge and a place to go. A church sister wanted so badly to volunteer her help. It worked out for her. When she arrived at Tent City she helped take care of a lot of little children that needed help so badly.

Bro. Kevin Funk closed with prayer.
TUESDAY EVENING

Elder William Carpenter opened. Let's manifest for Christ and our Brethren and Sisters and have compassion if we want to be a missionary.

Elder Jacob Ness. Ambassadors. II Chron. 32:31. How often does the Bible mention Missionary? What is life all about. We are Ambassadors for Christ. What can women do who are Christians. They can spend many hours in prayer. They can teach their young children in their home about Jesus. Who do you represent? The Lord will have the last word. God knows what's in our hearts.

Elder Edward Johnson closed. For the past few days there has been precious seed sown. Some of the seed may have fallen on stony ground and it was lost. Some of the seed fell on the way side, it was lost. Some of the seed fell on good soil and it was saved. We pray all will live such lives that we can gain that great reward, our Heavenly Home.

WEDNESDAY MORNING WORSHIP

Bro. Len Wertz. I Cor. 3:1-4. We have heard here about integrity. We are coming on to an all world government. We must keep in harmony with God. We need simplicity so we will be able to survive. Do not get caught up in the world. Live for Jesus Christ. Keep our spiritual life devoted to Christ. Be more committed to your prayer life. What is a carnal Christian? Get argument out of our lives. Some times we allow too short a time working for the Lord. Let our lives be spiritual to that dying world. A carnal Christian does not give thanks for every thing. A carnal Christian trys to dominate another person. Carnal Christians are proud and self-centered. A carnal Christian has a poor prayer life for his family. Build our spiritual life around Christ. This life leads to life eternal. Have you tested your life? Let us consider these things.

Sister Alice Heisey

SIXTY YEARS AGO

September 15, 1934

DOCTRINE

J.D. Brown

We are living in an age when doctrine is out of style. The popular churches of today have done away with doctrine altogether.

The gospel teaches the time is coming when people will not endure sound doctrine, but will heap to themselves teachers having itching ears. (II Tim. 4:3.) I believe we have arrived at that age. A great many of the ministers who are the most capable so far as education is concerned of preaching the real doctrine of the gospel of Jesus Christ refuses to preach it altogether.

I remember several years ago, one of the educated ministers of a certain church said he was not a doctrinal preacher. I wish to say they have neglected preaching the doctrine until they dare not preach it. The church today wants preachers who will preach to tickle the ears,

who will preach to satisfy the lust of the flesh, or the carnal mind.

Paul in Rom. 8:7 says the carnal mind is enmity against God, not subject to the will of God, neither indeed can be.

Jesus Christ severely rebuked the Pharisees simply because they failed to recognize doctrine. (Matt. 23:23) They were strong on tithing, but neglected the weighty matters of the law, the most important part. Show me a people who are strong on doctrine and I'll show you a people who are likely to recognize the whole gospel.

The religion of Jesus Christ is supported by doctrine, but take away doctrine and it's like cutting the trunk from under the tree, the entire structure falls to the ground and dies, the trunk of the tree is the source that every twig, no matter how large or how small gets its support, or life. So it is with the church, it exists by doctrine. Do away with doctrine and the church will perish.

I would like to liken the vine to the doctrine or the fundamental principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ was a doctrinal preacher, and we, who are ministers of the gospel of Jesus Christ, if we be in Christ and if Christ be in us, are duty bound to be doctrinal preachers. Jesus preached faith, repentance, and baptism for the remission of sins. He also preached feet washing to his disciples. He gave them to understand they also should preach feet washing, (John 13). He said I have washed your feet for an example, then commanded them to wash one another's feet; then again in the great commission He says, go ye therefore and teach all nations, baptizing them into the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost, teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you. And do not forget He had prior to this, commanded them to wash one another's feet, and lo, upon these conditions He promised the disciples He would be with them always, even until the end of the world.

Peter was a doctrinal preacher. On the day of pentecost he preached a wonderful doctrinal sermon, he preached faith, repentance and baptism. He condemned sinfulness, it pricked their hearts, and were made to cry out what must we do. (Acts 2.) Peter was filled with the Holy Ghost - Christ in Peter and Peter in Christ. Paul was a strong doctrinal preacher. He says, "I lay the foundation, and others build thereon. (I Cor. 3:10.) He also warns those who build on the foundation how careful they should be because the foundation he laid was the apostles, the prophets and Jesus Christ, the chief corner stone.

Paul felt the great responsibility resting on him. He says in I Cor. 9:16: "Woe is unto me if I preach not the gospel of Jesus Christ."

He instructed Timothy to preach the word, be instant in season, out of season, reprove, rebuke, exhort with all long suffering and doctrine. (II Tim. 4:2.) Make full proof of thy ministry. (II Tim. 4:5.)

I believe there was at least two things resting on Paul's mind. First, he had the church at heart. He knew the necessity of making full proof of the ministry. Paul knew the life of the church depended on men who

were not ashamed of the fundamental principles of Jesus Christ.

In the second place, I think Paul felt he would be held accountable to some extent for the doctrine Timothy would preach. Paul in Gal. 1:8 says, "If any man, even an angel from heaven come among you, and preach any other doctrine, let him be accursed." All scripture is given by inspiration of god, It's profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly finished unto all good works. (II Tim. 8:16-17.) Jesus Christ has established a law so exacting to enforce His doctrine that no man can afford to trifle with the fundamental principles of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

HUNGER AND THIRST

"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled." Matthew 5:6.

"Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price." Isaiah 55:1.

"And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." John 6:35.

"But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him." Hebrews 11:6.

No voice but thine can give me rest,
And bid my fears depart;
No love but thine can make me blest,
And satisfy my heart.

Did anyone ever tell you, "I never wanted to be a Christian, but I became one."? Probably not. It is God that draws us in the person of the Holy Spirit. In reading the scriptures above we must conclude that there must be a desire for God, a hungering and a thirsting, a willingness. II Corinthians 8:12 says, for if there be first a willing mind, and back in Exodus 35 it says, whosoever is of a willing heart. Jesus said in John 4:14, "But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life."

In the heart of man there is a desire that needs be filled. Most men do not know how to fill it, or what to fill it with. The Bible says that man was made in the image of God, that man's desire should be to worship and serve God. But most men do not know or hear the voice of God and try to fill the desire of their heart with foolish, selfish things: sins of all kinds, accumulating riches, power or influence. Only

when the desires of the heart are directed toward the Living God does that heart become satisfied.

Psalm 42:1-2 says, "As the hart paneth after the water brooks, so paneth my soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?"

Psalm 38:9, "Lord, all my desire is before thee; and my groaning is not hid from thee."

Adam and Eve had sinned against God, but not too long afterward they were sacrificing their first-fruits to Him. Though they had sinned, they still looked in His direction. But because of man's sinful nature he was not able to approach God. He could not keep God's law. He needed a sinless advocate. This advocate is found in the Lord Jesus Christ. Ephesians 1:22 says, "And (He) hath put all things under his feet, and gave him to be the head over all things to the church."

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NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

We, the Englewood Congregation, send out a hardy invitation for you to attend our September 25th Harvest Meeting, if it is the will of God. Brother Fred Johnson has been chosen as the speaker.

Another time for rejoicing is the decision to accept the Lord by Jonathan Gish, son of Phil and Mary Ellen Gish. Also, Teresa Boone, wife of Barry Boone was welcomed into our midst on her former baptism. May God's name be praised.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

WEST FULTON, OHIO

The West Fulton Congregation is looking forward to their revivals with Bro. Henry Walker, from the Pleasant Home, California Congregation. The Lord willing they are to start, Friday, September 30 through October 9. The evening services to begin at 7:45 and Sunday evening at 7:00. Pray for these services and the sowing of the seed that souls may be saved.

Sister Dianne Heisey, Cor.

Some people throw their tongue in high gear
before they get their brains working.

To look around is to be distressed.
To look within is to be depressed.
To look up is to be blessed.

Fight the good fight of faith.
Lay hold on eternal life.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1994

October 2 - Paul Arrives at Jerusalem, is Arrested - Acts 21:1-40.

1. What was the response of the Jerusalem believers to Paul's report of his ministry among the gentiles?
2. How was Paul's arrest similar to the arrest of Jesus?

October 9 - Paul Tells of His Conversion; Roman Citizenship - Acts 22:1-30

1. Why did Paul speak to the mob in the Hebrew tongue?
2. Why did the Chief Captain command a hearing for Paul before the Sanhedrin?

October 16 - Resurrection of the Dead - Acts 23:1-10.

1. Why did Paul apologize for his words to the High Priest?
2. What did Paul us to destroy the unity of the Sanhedrin?

October 23 - Conspiracy to Kill Paul - Acts 23:11-35.

1. Who ruined the Jewish conspiracy to kill Paul?
2. Why was Paul sent to Felix?

October 30 - Righteousness, Temperance and Judgement - Acts 24:1-17.

1. What was the main charge brought against Paul?
2. Why did Felix keep Paul bound?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR OCTOBER 1994

October 2 - Judged for Self-righteousness - Matt. 23:12, Judges 21:25,
Judges 2:11-23.

1. How are self-righteousness and a false god comparable?
2. How can we be exalted through humility?

October 9 - Blessed for Self-denial - Ruth 1:16-17, Ruth 4:11-22.

1. Explain Ruth's motive in her self-denial.
2. What were the rewards of Ruth's self-denial?

October 16 - God Looks on the Heart - I Sam. 16:17, I Sam 16:1-13.

1. By what does man humanly tend to judge?
2. What did David receive through the anointing?

October 23 - Man After God's Heart - Psalm 119:2, Psalm 89:20-37.

1. How much of our heart does God want?
2. What character quality had God found in David?

October 30 - Virtue - Phil. 4:8, Prov. 31:10-31.

1. Why should we think about virtue?
2. Name the virtues of the virtuous woman.

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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 19

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

I LOVE THY WILL

I love thy will, O God!
Thy blessed, perfect will,
In which this once rebellious heart
Lies satisfied and still.

I love thy will, O God!
It is my joy, my rest;
It glorifies my common task,
It makes each trial blest.

I love thy will, O God!
The sunshine or the rain;
Some days are bright with praise, and some
Sweet with accepted pain.

I love thy will, O God!
O hear my earnest plea,
That as thy will is done in heaven
It may be done in me!

-Bessie Pegg MacLaughlin

ANIMALS

God created the animals for the good of man and the Earth. We are amused by the antics and tricks that some animals are able to do. Other animals amaze us with their strength and intelligence. Still other animals frighten and terrify us.

Man was placed on earth after the animals but was given dominion over them. The animals became a source of food, shelter and clothing for men. They also became a source of blood sacrifices, so men could approach God.

After Adam and Eve sinned, the ram was sacrificed to provide their clothing, which was a primitive picture of the sacrifice of the Lamb of God to provide men with a covering of righteousness, that they could not provide for themselves. Throughout the Old Testament, various animals and birds were designated as acceptable sacrifices and offerings for various sins. These sacrifices were continued until Christ became the final, perfect sacrifice for sin. With His perfect sacrifice, all animal sacrifices ended.

While God gave the animals for the benefit of men, they are not to be treated cruelly or to be tortured. He expected men to take good care of the animals that he used in his service. At the same time, the animals were not to be exalted above the well-being of their masters. As important and useful as animals are, they are not to become more important than God's ultimate creation, man.

Many scholars, today, make the mistake of lumping men and beasts together as one part of the physical world. Especially those, who regard evolution as the explanation for the appearance and development of men, see men only as a higher form of the animal kingdom. Man is not an animal. God gave man dominion over the animals, therefore he is not one of them. God's creative wisdom is

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greater than the minds of those who try to understand the order of things in the world. Although there are many superficial similarities between men and some of the animals; there remains many dissimilarities in more important areas than appearance. Men have been given a reasoning capacity, as well as a memory, that is lacking in even the highest orders of animals. Men also have a capacity for worshipping God that is totally missing in animals. Although some animals do develop a sense of devotion to humans, it is an emotion that is considerably removed from similar human emotions.

Sometimes even Christians are heard to speak of men as animals. They may use a term like "higher animals" recognizing that there is a superiority, but still being influenced by the current worldly thought concerning the origin of man.

The teaching of the theory of evolution has had an effect upon the social behavior of many people. People have been told repeatedly for the past several generations that man is but a higher form of the animals. After being indoctrinated with this theory, each succeeding generation has brought forth people who have acted more and more like the animals of the field. They have become like the animals in their mating habits. They go from one partner to another, having no emotional attachment, only a desire for physical fulfillment. They treat other people with a lack of dignity and kindness that would be expected of an undomesticated animal. They survive by force rather than by the higher powers, supposedly possessed by men. What they are not given, they take by force, often hurting or even killing anyone who would oppose them. They have become uncouth, in their dress and appearance. Many would appear in public nearly as naked as the animals, because it is the natural way. They lack basic manners, because they have been taught to acquire what they want for themselves without regard for the desires of others, just as the animals fight over the carcass of the slain. They have become uncultured, not caring for those things that are beyond the basic necessities of life, that make life a little more enjoyable.

Man has attempted to become more like the beasts of nature. In doing so he has ignored the God who has created him and placed him in a very special relation. Man has ignored the precious price that God has paid for the soul of men, in the giving of His Son, Jesus Christ.

Be careful how you speak of God's greatest creation and most valued possession, YOU.

MCC

THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE SWORD

This saying refers to the written word having more power than all the weapons of war. Man's philosophies have often outlasted man's regimes and governments, but those Words written by the Finger of God have outlasted everything. A famous man once said, "Give me

twenty-six lead soldiers and I will conquer the world." He was referring to the alphabet and to moveable type, and to the spreading of ideas through the printed word. We cannot stress enough the importance of the printed page, particularly that which has been inspired by the Holy Spirit of God.

In olden times there were masters and there were slaves. The masters were educated and the slaves were not. With the advent of the Renaissance education became more common. Today, many countries have one hundred percent literacy. Men need not be slaves to other men through ignorance. Today men, though literate, remains slaves to sin. There are millions upon millions of Bibles in print in every language imaginable, yet there is also more sin than ever before. Man is evil though he is often born into the best of conditions.

It is easy to understand that man's depravity demands a solution. Humanism teaches that through improving himself physically and mentally man will become a higher creature and rise above his weaknesses. This is not happening. Humanism is failing because, though education is at a peak, and medicine is at a peak, sin is also at a peak. Man cannot improve himself spiritually without God, because man cannot change his nature. God has provided the solution in Jesus Christ, the Son of God, and the Word of God. It is in this Word that we exist. This written Word became flesh and dwelt among us. Accounts of His Life were written by those close to Him, inspired of course by the Holy Ghost. Those of us who believe strongly in sharing this Word with others do so because, as it says in John, we beheld His Glory, full of grace and truth. The Love of Christ constrains us so that by our lives and by the things we say and write we urge men to accept the Gospel and be saved.

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REMINISCING

Continued from September 15, 1994 Issue

The Lovefeast was held on Saturday with preaching in the forenoon. After dinner, there were two sermons. The second was the Examination Sermon following the Divine injunction, "Let a man examine himself and so let him eat."

Following the close of the afternoon meeting, the tables were set for the evening service.

I break the line of thought here to relate how the cooking was done in that day. The hand pumped well was outside some distance from the kitchen. Near this well was the fire place with two large iron kettles, each mounted on a three legged ring. The meat,

potatoes and noodles were cooked in one kettle and the other kettle provided a continuous supply of hot water. Many sisters helped to wash dishes after each meal.

Just prior to going to the communion table, the food was placed on the table. It consisted of bread, applebutter, water, meat (either beef or mutton) and sop. Sop was broken bread soaked in the meat broth. The meat and sop were warm. A scripture that refers to the sop is John 13:26b, "...And when he (Jesus) had dipped the sop, he gave it to Judas Iscariot, the son of Simon."

Foot-tubs and basins of warm water, long towels and short towels were provided for each table.

When all things were ready a hymn was sung at which time the members surrounded the tables, brethren and sisters at their separate tables. The Elder or minister chosen to officiate, that is take charge of the meeting, made a few opening remarks, then asked an official to conduct opening devotions.

After devotions the one officiating took the long towel and girded himself, then he poured water into a basin and washed his brother's feet. The one washing feet, dried them with the long towel, which he had girded around him. That brother washed and dried the feet of the one next to him, continuing till all the Brethren's feet had been washed. After shoes and stockings were put back on, a basin of water was passed to wash hands. The smaller towel was used to dry the hands. At the same time the Brethren were washing feet, the Sisters were obeying and practicing the same ritual, in the same way.

After feetwashing, the deacons removed the tubs and basins of water and the towels. This concluded the feetwashing service. Next was the Lord's Supper.

The supper was on the tables, covered. After feetwashing, the one officiating asked that the covers be removed. One of the Brethren at the table prayed for the Lord's blessing on the meal. Enough bowls of sop, plates of meat and bread were placed on the tables so each Brother and Sister could help themselves. As a rule, four communicants dipped sop from the same bowl. When all at the tables were through eating a prayer of thanks was offered and the tablecloths were put back on the tables. This concluded the Lord's Supper.

The Communion followed. An Elder or minister read John 19:1-30 and spoke on it. It contains a record of the trial, crucifixion and death of Jesus. It is very touching. READ IT.

While that one was expounding on this scripture, the one officiating prepared the communion bread for passing. The bread was baked in such a way that it could be broken into strips about an inch wide and ten or twelve inches long.

After the bread was separated, the salutation of the Holy Kiss was passed, as commanded in the New Testament, from brother to brother and from sister to sister.

After this was finished, the one officiating took some of the bread in his hand and prayed, asking God to bless the bread from a common to a commemorative use. (To represent the broken Body of Christ.) After this prayer, he broke a portion of this bread and gave it to the Brother next to him. After laying this portion down on the table, this Brother was handed the remainder of the strip. He, in turn, did likewise to the one next to him, until all Brethren at the table were supplied with a portion. An assistant saw that full strips of the bread are available when needed. The same procedure was followed at the Sister's table.

When all had eaten their portion of the bread, the cup was passed. Grape juice was used as an emblem of Jesus' shed blood. The one officiating poured grape juice in a cup, held it in his hand, while praying that God would bless it from its common to a commemorative use. (To represent the shed blood of Christ.) He then passed the cup to the brother next to him. This brother took a sip and he passed it on until each communicant had a sip. An assistant followed the passing of the cup, refilling it when necessary. The Sister's table proceeded the same way.

After all were served, a portion of bread and a sip of the cup, a closing prayer was offered. Following prayer, any necessary announcements were made and the Lovefeast came to a close. They closed as they did in the upper room. (Matt. 26:30a.) "And when they had sung an hymn, they went out..."

To be continued

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SENNACHERIB AND HEZEKIAH

(Read II Chronicles 32)

We find in verse one of this chapter that "...Sennacherib king of Assyria came, and entered into Judah, and encamped against the fenced cities, and thought to win them for himself."

When Hezekiah, king of Judah, realized the intent of Sennacherib he immediately took two steps to counter the invasion. The first, which was probably a foolish move, was to "stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city." This in turn "stopped all the fountains and the brook that ran through the midst of the land." His second move, a wise one in our estimation, was to build up all the wall that was broken, made it higher and added another wall around the original one. He then prepared for battle by making (or having made) darts and shields in abundance.

Hezekiah then informed the people of their most important asset

with these words, "With him, (Sennacherib), is an arm of flesh; but with us is the LORD our God to help us."

A large portion of the remaining part of the chapter tells how in many and various ways Sennacherib ridiculed that statement of Hezekiah and boasted of his own power. In many ways we see Sennacherib as a type of the modern church. We would like to think of Hezekiah as a type of the historical plain church. At the very outset we wish to make it clear that we are not judging the salvation of those within other groups. God is the final judge in such matters. Nor are we foolish enough to suggest that all of those who are a part of the plain church movement are saved individuals.

There is no doubt that a large portion of the historical plain church feels threatened by recent government decisions and the ecumenical movement, which we believe have much more in common than most individuals realize. But one of the reactions to this we fear, like Hezekiah's decision to stop the waters of the fountains which were without the city which in turn stopped all the fountains and the brook that ran through the midst of the land, is quite foolish. This is the decision to do away with all tradition that is not directly given in Holy Scripture. One of the boasts of Sennacherib was, "Know ye not what I and my fathers have done unto all the people of other lands?" Satan and the modern worldly church convinced those who held fast to Holy Scripture that the plain church movement was legalistic. In response to this they removed their prayer veils and put on jewelry and immodest dress. Will this be the final result of laying aside tradition in large portions of the historical plain church including our beloved Dunkard Brethren Church?

On the positive side we are glad to see signs of building up the wall that was broken. Our ministers still stand firmly on the Bible as the Word of God. They are not ashamed to proclaim the blood of Christ as needed to cleanse us from all sin. They still stand opposed to sinful acts as described in the Word of God. As far as we know, all of our ministers still use the King James Version exclusively for reading and preaching in public worship. These things are also true of others within the historical peace churches.

We also see signs of building the wall higher. While we are thankful that our ministers are not required to attend a seminary, we see signs of additional study and keeping up with world events.

We, in addition, see signs of building another wall around the original one. We are thankful to hear sermons that address the real world of hurt, suffering and discouragement in the lives of individuals. Yes, even in the lives of Christians.

We must prepare for battle against Sennacherib. Let's throw our darts toward the modern apostate church and not at one another. Let

us remember that God is our shield. If we do as King Hezekiah and the prophet Isaiah and pray and cry to heaven God will send help our way. God sent an angel to them. He has given us the Holy Spirit to help in our spiritual battles.

We find that "Thus the LORD saved Hezekiah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem from the band of Sennacherib the king of Assyria, and from the hand of all other, and guided them on every side."

As the song writer said, we are "safe in the arms of Jesus" if we hold fast to God's Holy Word. Let us avoid compromise and continue in the faith.

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THE TWO EYES OF ENGLISH

"He that despised Moses' law died without mercy under two or three witnesses:" Heb. 10:28. The punctuation at the end of this verse is called a colon, the two eyes of English. One eye looks back, the other looks forward. Our one eye of English looks back to what happened to a man while the children of Israel were still in the wilderness.

"And while the children of Israel were in the wilderness, they found a man that gathered sticks upon the sabbath day. And they that found him gathering sticks brought him unto Moses and Aaron, and unto all the congregation. And they put him in ward, because it was not declared what should be done to him. And the Lord said unto Moses, The man shall be surely put to death: all the congregation shall stone him with stones without the camp." Num. 15:32-35. We find this sentence was carried out as directed.

To the writer, the concluding verses of chapter 15 seems to be condescending on the part of God. He commands that a ribbon of blue be put on the fringes of their garments. Blue is an outstanding color. "Speak unto the children of Israel, and bid them that they make them fringes in the borders of their garments throughout their generations, and that they put upon the fringe of the borders a ribband of blue: And it shall be unto you for a fringe, that ye may look upon it, and remember all the commandments of the Lord, and do them; and that ye seek not after your own heart and your own eyes, after which ye use to go a whoring:" Num. 15:38-39. After the wearing of blue, we are not told of any more violations of the sabbath.

Let's notice our eye of English that looks forward: "Of how much sorer punishment, suppose ye, shall he be thought worthy, who hath trodden under foot the Son of God, and hath counted the blood of the covenant, wherewith he was sanctified, an unholy thing, and hath done despite unto the Spirit of grace?" Heb. 10:29. These are thought compelling words indeed, and should be carefully considered by every child of God. We certainly don't want to fall into the hands of a living God.

Brother Otto Harris

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 1, 1934
A GRACIOUS PROVISION
L. W. Beery

In the midst of the struggles and tribulations of the Christian race we may at times forget the provisions that our God has made for the humble followers of the Christ under all circumstances and conditions. For this reason it is essential that we search the scriptures daily, "For therein is the righteousness of God revealed from faith to faith: as it is written, The just shall live by faith." (Rom. 1:17)

An example of God's kindness and mercy toward His children is shown by His consideration and assistance when they are tempted. "There hath no temptation taken you but such as is common to man: but God is faithful, who will not suffer you to be tempted above that ye are able; but will with the temptation also make a way to escape, that ye may be able to bear it." (I Cor. 10:13.) Here we have a promise that should be cherished by every servant of the Lord. How comforting and encouraging it is to know that in spite of all the weaknesses that we have it is possible for us to come out victorious when tempted of the evil one.

Our Lord knows the weaknesses that we have and He also knows how to overcome these weaknesses and bear the temptations, "For we have not a high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin." (Heb. 4:15.) We are also assured of this, "For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succor them that are tempted." (Heb. 2:18.)

Although He is able to "save to the uttermost" it is necessary for us to come humbly before Him and look to Him in faith believing to experience the intervention of divine power in our behalf. It is here where we so often fail. When tempted, troubled or distressed we are prone to rely upon our own strength or ability to save us and if we fail in this, go down in defeat. It is just at such times that God will show His power to help us if we but trust Him. It has been truly said, "man's extremity is God's opportunity." The advice of the Psalmist when in trouble and need is thus, "Wait on the Lord: be of good courage, and he shall strengthen thine heart: wait, I say, on the Lord." (Ps. 27:14.) If we wait on the Lord in faith believing and look for a way of escape when tempted we shall not be disappointed.

That our Lord is able to save need not be questioned, "Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them." (Heb. 7:25.) "Who is he that condemneth? It is Christ that died, yea rather, that is risen again, who is even at the right hand of God, who also maketh intercession for us." (Rom. 8:34.) "My little children, these things write I unto you, that ye sin not. And if any man sin, we have an advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous." (I John 2:1.)

Just how He will succor us or come to our relief in all cases we do not know but if we trust Him fully a way will be provided. "The Lord knoweth how to deliver the godly out of temptations, and to reserve the unjust unto the day of judgment to be punished." (II Peter 2:9.)

"Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Heb. 4:16.)

"Now unto him that is able to do exceeding abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us; Unto him be glory in the church by Christ Jesus throughout all ages, world without end. Amen." (Eph. 3:20-21.)

THE LEADER

I once wanted to be a leader -
to be the person everyone looked up to.
To make everything in life a little clearer,
and to always know just what to say and do.

I wanted to prove to everyone I knew
that there was a leader in me.
I needed to have someone who
would respect, love and believe in me.

I never saw what a leader I already was,
in the everyday life I was living.
Being an example to everyone just because
I was living what I was believing.

I then looked further on to realize
there was a much greater Leader.
He was so relevant in our lives,
the most important guide and teacher.

He respected, loved and believed in me.
I didn't need anyone else's approval.
It was such a relief to finally see,
all I had to do was follow His rule.

I realized I would be an important leader later in life,
when I had my own children's life to mold.
I had to help them through their greatest strifes,
with my love, understanding, and yes, I even had to scold.

I would be the example they would look to everyday.
It would be my job to show them the right road to take.

Then I would send them on their way,
into a world full of lies and hate.

Hopefully they would look to their leader who -
they have learned to honor, worship, love and respect.

He would now be their teacher too,
and He would show them the way through His text.

You see, Jesus is the ultimate leader.
He is the only one you'll ever need.
He helps you to see things clearer,
through His Word, which you should heed.

So if you ever need His guiding hand,
just search the skies above.
He'll be your Leader who understands.
Always showing His abundant love.

Aimee L. Lebo
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DID YOU LOVE ME, DADDY?

As I got bigger I realized you were disappointed when I was born and found out you wanted a girl instead of me, a boy. Perhaps the first time I understood this was when you gave my sister a snack cake and you gave me two soda crackers.

Did you love me, Daddy?

One time you slammed my fingers in the kitchen door and it hurt so bad! While Mommy cared for me, you hollered at me for having my fingers in the wrong place at the wrong time.

Did you love me, Daddy?

Another time I worked real hard hoeing and pulling weeds in the garden because you said you'd take me fishing. A neighbor came by and you talked 'shop' for a long time. You said you would take me another time, but you never did.

Did you love me, Daddy?

When we had visitors you were so happy and acted like a good Christian Dad should act. You were polite to everybody in the visiting

family, including each of the children. After they left you started reading a magazine and you didn't want me to look.

Did you love me, Daddy?

A man from a cult came to the door and wanted you to buy his literature. You told him you were a Christian and you didn't need his literature. While you were talking I remembered the time I spilt milk at the table and you hit my face so hard it knocked me off my chair.

Did you love me, Daddy?

You were trying to fix Mommie's sweeper and you used some words that didn't sound right for a Christian Dad to use. Later, when I was trying to fix my toy truck I used one of those words. There was a sweeper attachment handy and you reached for it and gave me a great whack on my hand. You never did explain the difference.

Did you love me, Daddy?

And then came the night you went back to the pond without me. I followed you later. I was at the edge where the cattails are and got in too deep and fell into the water at the dropping off place.

I never got out.

Do you miss me, Daddy?

Sister Mildred Skiles
Torreon Navajo Mission

OBITUARY LOLA L. RUSCHHAUPT

Sis. Lola L. Ruschhaupt died August 21, 1994, at the age of 81 years, 6 months and 1 day, at Baptist Medical Center, Kansas City, Missouri.

She was born in Elk City, Oklahoma, February 20, 1913, the daughter of the late John and Ada Root.

She joined the Dunkard Brethren Church as a Charter Member in 1929 at Waterford, California. She was a member of the Kansas City Dunkard Brethren Church from 1946 to 1960, and of the Grandview Congregation from 1960 until her death.

She was the wife of Bro. John F. Ruschhaupt. The couple observed their 48th wedding anniversary, February 14, 1994.

Surviving in addition to her husband are one son, Roy E. Ruschhaupt, Overland Park, Kansas; a daughter, Thetis Ruschhaupt of the home; four brothers, Allen Root, Pasco, Washington, Eldon Root and Ben Root of Modesto, California, and Emmert Root, Denver, Indiana; four sisters, Ruby Bowman, Mildred Miller and Adaline Holsinger of Modesto, California and Betty Knaus, Knob Noster, Missouri, also thirty seven nieces and nephews.

Services were held at the Muehlebach Funeral Home, Kansas City, on Wednesday, August 24, 1994 at 11:00 A.M. with Bro. Ray Reed and Bro. Mark Andrews. Interment was in the Memorial Park Cemetery, Kansas City, Missouri.

MOTHERS NEVER REALLY DIE -
THEY JUST KEEP HOUSE UP IN THE SKY

Death beckoned her with outstretched hand
And whispered softly of "An Unknown Land"—

But she was not afraid to go
For though the path she did not know,
She took Death's Hand without a fear,
For He who safely brought her here
Had told her He would lead the way
Into Eternity's Bright Day...

And so she did not go alone
Into the "Valley That's Unknown"—
She gently took Death By the Hand
And journeyed to "The Promised Land"...
And there, with step so light and gay,
She polishes the sun by day
And lights the stars that shine at night
And keeps the moonbeams silvery bright...

For Mothers really never die,
They just "Keep House Up In The Sky"..."
And in the Heavenly Home Above
They wait to "welcome" those they love

-by Helen Steiner Rice

"And the world passeth away...but he that doeth the will of God abideth forever." I John 2:17.

The family wishes to thank all who have remembered them in prayer, called, sent flowers, cards and letters in this time of loss. May God bless all of you.

NEWS ITEMS

GENERAL MISSION BOARD
FINANCIAL UPDATE
SEPTEMBER 1994

To: All Congregations and Supporters of the Torreon Mission

At the request of the Brotherhood Trustee Board we are making you aware of the current financial condition of our Brotherhood funds. As you know, the Torreon Navajo Mission is our largest project which requires regular funding from the Mission Board. As needed the

Mission Board turns to the Trustee Board for additional funds. This practice over a period of time has resulted in a marked depletion of funds in both the Mission Board and Trustee Board, as donations have not kept pace with rising expenses.

We feel that to make an appeal for funds without an accompanying explanation of expenditures is not prudent. For this reason we wish to share the following:

- 1) Operating expenses for 1993 averaged \$7,418/month;
- 2) Operating expenses for 1994 (YTD) averaged \$9,046/month;
- 3) Direct Donations to Torreon Mission for 1993 averaged \$3,448/month;
- 4) Direct Donations to Torreon Mission for 1994(YTD)averaged \$3,798/mo.

It readily can be seen that expenses have increased significantly while at the same time donations have increased only slightly. The rise in expenses in recent months is due in part to the decision to obtain medical insurance for mission staff. Additionally, some needed physical plant expenditures have been made recently, floor-covering replacement in the learning center, treatment of school building for termites and so forth.

In view of this present need we are encouraging congregations and interested individuals to share as the Lord directs. Additionally, the Torreon Board of Directors and General Mission Board will prayerfully consider the level of services and ministry currently being conducted to determine any reductions or changes that would be appropriate. We commit this ministry to His care and keeping as we endeavor to be sensitive to His leading!

Donations may be forwarded to the Torreon Mission, General Mission Board or Trustee Board as desired by contributors.

PLEVNA, INDIANA

The Plevna Congregation is looking forward to a Revival, October 9 through 16. Brother Wayne Burgess from Hasty, Colorado will be our evangelist.

Lovefeast services will be October 15 at 2:00 and 7:00 P.M. Other evenings the time will be 7:30. We invite all to these meetings.

Sister Verda Lorenz, Cor.

PLEASANT HOME, CALIFORNIA

"Ho, everyone that thirsteth, come ye to the waters." This invitation from Isaiah 55:1 is still open today. Brother Galen Shelley from

Walnut Grove, Maryland Congregation is our chosen evangelist for Revival Meetings from October 16 through 23, 1994.

The first weekend of November is our set date for Fall Lovefeast. Please join us when you can and pray for us at all times, that God's Spirit may guide in all our ways.

Sister Edith Moss, Cor.

GOSHEN, INDIANA

The Lord willing, Bro. Gordon Jamison from Quinter Congregation, will hold a one week revival, October 30 through November 6. Services each evening will be at 7:30. Saturday, November 5, will be our Lovefeast; starting at 2:00 and in the evening at 7:00. Everyone is invited and we ask for your prayers during this time.

Sister Becky Stalter, Cor.

●

Satan sifts us to get rid of the wheat.
Christ sifts us to get rid of the chaff.

●

Humble yourself in the sight of the Lord, and He shall lift you up.

●

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXII

OCTOBER 15, 1994

NO. 20

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

CHRISTIAN WATCHFULNESS

My soul, be on thy guard;
Ten thousand foes arise;
The hosts of sin are pressing hard
To draw thee from the skies.

O, watch, and fight, and pray;
The battle ne'er give o'er;
Renew it boldly every day,
And help divine implore.

Ne'er think the victory won.
Nor lay thine armor down;
Thy arduous work will not be done
Till thou obtain thy crown.

Fight on, my soul, till death
Shall bring thee to thy God;
He'll take thee at thy parting breath,
To his divine abode.

-Heath

CONTINUING FAITH

The children of Israel had a long and troublesome journey through the wilderness, from Egypt to the Promised Land. Most of their troubles were self-made. Their complaining and willingness to follow false leaders brought them most of their troubles. Although they did not always appreciate God's magnificent provision for them, He had remained merciful and gracious toward them. Although they had not been as perceptive as they should have been, they had made it into the Promised Land.

Under Joshua's leadership, they had conquered most of the country that had been promised to them. "The land flowing with milk and honey" soon became their land. They entered a land ready for them. The crops were in the fields, the houses were provisioned, all was ready for them to use. They moved in and it was theirs. This certainly was far better than the journey through the wilderness. Even though they now had to gather their own crops and do their own work to provide for themselves, it was very rewarding and comforting to them.

It became so comfortable, that they began to take this for granted. After the death of Joshua, they began to drift from their devotion to God. While on the journey they had learned that they must depend directly upon God for the provision of food and drink along the way. Now that they were in their land, they forgot about God, since His provision for them was not so direct. They forgot that God had given them this productive land and the physical strength and mental acumen to produce their own crops. So they began to think less and less about God and more and more about their own desires.

They began to be at ease in their land. People at ease are easy targets for Satan. When there is a loss of dependence upon God,

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there is a greater dependence on and exaltation of self. The children of Israel had failed to drive all the heathen out of the land. They had gotten most of them out, but toward the end, they became more interested in living their own lives, so they had forgotten the program that God had given them. As those on their own, they began to fall into the snare of friendship with the people they had failed to conquer. These people soon introduced them to the worship of their gods and goddesses. Since they were not as close to God, as they should have been, there was a void in their hearts, that which idols soon filled. Soon they were worshipping these idols rather than God.

Because they abandoned God, their neighbors became their conquerors. They would suffer under this oppression for a while, until they would begin to call upon God for deliverance. In His mercy, He would raise up a leader to lead them against their oppressors. They would be delivered, but after the death of that judge, they would repeat the same procedure again. This was a continuing scheme, that went on until the time of Samuel.

Today, we can look back and thoroughly condemn the children of Israel for their lack of Spiritual perspective and their unfaithfulness. But do we do any better than they? We may not fall down and literally worship idols, but there are many things and activities of modern life which have become gods for us. We are willing to do almost anything so we can have those things that we worship. Whether it is wealth, houses, position, fame, or fun, many will worship that god. Even if they begin to recover themselves and seek after God, often they repeat the same scheme as the children of Israel. The objects of people's worship varies, but each of them represents something that gets between them and God.

We can be glad that God has given us the story of the failures of the children of Israel. If we learn the lessons of history, we will not have to repeat the agonies that they went through. All depends on our learning those lessons rather than repeating them. So by seeing how their course served them, we can learn to not follow that same course. Are we any better prepared to avoid the pitfalls of life than they were? If we insist on worshipping the gods of this world we will find ourselves the dependents of this world, rather than the children of God. The children of Israel paid a high price for their worship of their neighbor's gods. The price will not be any lower for us today.

We must guard, as they didn't, against the lures of the gods of this world. We would expect these things to be in the world and those of the world would follow them, but they should not be in the church. Yet many gods have already made inroads into the Church. There needs to be an awareness of the dangers of the gods of our neighbors and not allow ourselves to become followers of these false gods.

Have you gotten rid of all the gods of this world?

IT IS NOT IN MAN

"O Lord, I know that the way of man is not in himself: it is not in man that walketh to direct his steps." Jer. 10:23.

Let us consider the conviction expressed here. "I know," says the writer. It is not a matter of opinion or conjecture, but of certainty. "I know that the way of man is not in himself." Yes, but Jeremiah was a prophet, and prophets were called SEERS, and can see when other people are in the dark, and "they reveal things to come." But the sources from which Jeremiah derived his convictions on this subject are open to us all, and some of them have been enlarged since. They are five.

The first is the NATURE OF OUR CONDITION. We are not our own, and therefore are not at our own disposal. We belong to God entirely. We are His servants, His subjects, His children. He has over us the rights of a master, a sovereign, and of a father. He has in us an absolute property. He has "made us, and not we ourselves." In Him we "live, and move, and have our being." If God were to summon us before Him, and say to us, "Take what is thine own," what would be ours? Could we retain even our own existence? No. We would relapse into our original dust.

The second source of this conviction is the LIMITATION OF OUR POWERS. Men think more highly of themselves than they ought to think. The last thing a person will forgive is an assault upon his understanding. "Vain man would be wise," said Zophar, "though man be born like a wild ass's colt." When he grows up, even when he comes to what is called his years of maturity, how liable is he to be deceived and deluded! How narrow is his vision: how foggy and cloudy it is! How liable to bias and misconception, and therefore how unable to distinguish between appearances and realities, it is.

The third source of conviction is HISTORY. Take the case of Abraham and Lot. They differed, and it was found necessary that they should separate. Abraham said unto Lot, "Is not the whole land before thee? if thou depart to the right hand, then I will go to the left; if thou take the left hand, then I will go to the right." Lot was the nephew and the youngest, he therefore should have suffered Abraham to take the preference. But observe not only the indelicacy but the principle of his choice. It was his senses, his passions, his vanity, his love of worldly things, regardless of moral and religious considerations. Lot chose all the plain of Sodom. What was the consequence? He was burnt out of house and home by a storm of fire and brimstone. Then his wife, having become attached to the place, looked back, and became a pillar of salt. An instance in the life of David will furnish another illustration. In his fear of Saul he said, "There is nothing better than that I should escape into the land of the Philistines." In doing so he took the worst step he could have taken: a step which was calculated to

alienate from him the affections of Israel, justify the reproach of his enemies, deprive him of the means of grace, familiarize him with the evil practices of the heathen round about, remove him from Divine protection, and put him into the position of betraying God. We know the embarrassment and distress which soon followed, and yet he thought this was the best he could do. Paul spoke with much confidence to the elders of Ephesus, that they should see his face no more, and yet he did see them again after his first imprisonment. He said to the Romans, "I long to see you, that I may impart to you some spiritual gifts, to the end ye may be established." How little did he imagine when he wrote that letter he was to see them at Rome: that he should arrive, not as an apostle, but as a prisoner. Joseph went forth in the morning to inquire after the welfare of his brethren, who were in the plain of Dothan, but he never came back. He was soon thrown in a pit, then sold as a slave to Egypt, then imprisoned, and "the iron entered into his soul." There is the case of Hazael, who, when a private individual, was met by Elisha, and told what evil he would do to the children of Israel, said, "Is thy servant a dog, that he should do this great thing?" But though sincere in his feelings then, he did not know what a change in his character a change in his condition would produce. When he became King of Syria, he became all that he had denied, and all that the man of God predicted.

The fourth source of conviction is EXPERIENCE. God commanded the Jews to remember all the way by which they had been led into the wilderness, and in doing so we shall not fail to see that the same things will appear to us very different when we look ahead to them as opposed to looked back after the fact. How surprised we should have been, had some of our situations in life been previously made known to us! So true it is, the way of a man is not in himself. It is not in man that walketh to direct his steps.

Lastly, SCRIPTURE is another source of conviction. Its concurrent testimony is, that "a man's goings are of the Lord; how then can a man understand his own way?" "He performeth the thing that is appointed for me, and many such things are with him."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD#2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

REMINISCING

Continued from October 1, 1994 Issue

Some denominations call the Communion, the Lord's Supper, which is not correct. Very few denominations, in our day, observe the full Lovefeast. Neither do they immerse in baptism, wear the prayer veil or greet with a holy kiss (which is commanded five times

in the New Testament). We, as a Dunkard Church, carry out all the ordinances as given in God's Holy Word.

While thinking about the good works of the church years ago, it is easy to see many differences from today. Seldom, unless their case was an emergency were they taken to the hospital.

Years ago, most people, especially the aged, when they became ill were cared for and died in their own home or the home of one of their children. I remember the "WAKE". Several of the members would sit up all night keeping a vigil over a corpse before burial. No one, then, had to pay a hundred dollars or more to open and close a grave. Brethren from the church dug the grave and closed it without cost.

Members helped other members gladly and freely, whatever the need. I can remember when a farmer became sick and couldn't plant his crops or couldn't harvest his crops, the members would pitch in and do the work for him, freely and willingly.

I well remember one particular instance. A member became sick when his corn should be husked. The church members husked and cribbed his corn, finishing the job one night after dark. Some of the farmers' wives came along and when the huskers came to the house, they were all invited to an oyster supper. I know. I was there. As a child with my parents, I shared in that supper.

If there was a fire and someone's home burned, the members got busy and welcomed the burnt out family to stay with them. As needed, the family was given clothing, bedding, and so forth, thus fulfilling the scripture, "to bear one another's burdens."

Years ago, there was more visiting and socializing among the Church members than there is today. From my observation, church members were more devout, more serious, more dedicated and lived a more simple and satisfying life than church members do today.

Over the years, modern conveniences have taken over. Automatic heating systems, electricity, better means of communication, transportation, medication, education and in every phase of life there have been improvements. Some of these improvements helped the Church, such as automobiles. They were a help to those who wanted to attend church regularly. They were also the means of others going on pleasure trips on Sunday, thus missing church services.

As modernism and the fashions of the world began to creep into the Church, there arose the Dunkard Brethren Church. She was organized to maintain the plain and simple ways of earlier generations. We retain the observance of the ordinances as our foreparents did. Our polity called for closer living to the teachings in God's Word. Our movement was simply to get back to the old landmarks and to a faith closer to our fathers' faith.

I urge every member, young and old, to cleave to the church. Support her with your talents and prayers. Raise your children in the fear and admonition of the Lord. Ere long, some of them may be the leaders in the Church. Cooperate with your official board. Live faithful until death and you shall receive the Crown of Life which the Lord hath promised to them that love Him. (Part of James 1:12)

God bless each Brother and Sister.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., N.W.
Canton, Ohio 44718

WHAT IS BIBLICAL MORALITY?

Psalm 119:33-40, "Teach me, O Lord, the way of thy statutes; and I shall keep it unto the end. Give me understanding, and I shall keep thy law; yea, I shall observe it with my whole heart. Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. Incline my heart unto thy testimonies, and not to covetousness. Turn away mine eyes from beholding vanity; and quicken thou me in thy way. Stablish thy word unto thy servant, who is devoted to thy fear. Turn away my reproach which I fear: for thy judgments are good. Behold, I have longed after thy precepts: quicken me in thy righteousness."

Colossians 1:9-10, "For this cause we also, since the day we heard it, do not cease to pray for you, and to desire that ye might be filled with the knowledge of his will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding; That ye might walk worthy of the Lord unto all pleasing, being fruitful in every good work, and increasing in the knowledge of God."

Within our midst today we have advocates for various theological teachings. These beliefs range from the antinomians, or libertines, who believe and teach that a righteous life has nothing to do with salvation, to those who follow the thinking of Christian Reconstruction which believes and teaches that all of society should be forced to obey all of the law of Scripture, including those laws given to the nation of Israel in the Old Testament. Therefore the question, "what is Biblical morality?", is very relevant for today.

The first fact that must be established is that the Scriptures clearly teach that the Church is not under Old Testament rules and regulations. The entire book of Hebrews deals with this subject in great length. It is pretty well summed up in Hebrews 8:13, "In that he saith, A new covenant, he hath made the first old. Now that which decayeth and waxeth old is ready to vanish away." When this

was written the New Testament was not yet completed. We believe there were some writings of the apostles used by the early Church as Scripture, but the Old Testament was still their main source of reference. We believe the writer of Hebrews is saying that the time is close by when this will no longer be so. This does NOT mean that the Old Testament is no longer to be used as a guide.

While Christians are not under the Old Testament rules and regulations, God's moral laws have never changed! We believe it is right and proper for governments to pass laws that are in line with God's view of morality. But the Church has never called to be involved in the political arena.

True Biblical morality goes beyond the laws passed by civil government. Only those who have submitted their hearts and lives to God can even begin to live a life of true morality. The Psalmist gives us several ways that lead to Biblical morality. "TEACH ME, O LORD, THE WAY OF THY STATUTES;" "GIVE ME UNDERSTANDING," "MAKE ME TO GO IN THE PATH OF THY COMMANDMENTS;" "INCLINE MY HEART UNTO THY TESTIMONIES," "TURN AWAY MINE EYES...;" "QUICKEN THOU ME IN THY WAY." "STABLISH THY WORD....," "TURN AWAY MY REPROACH...;"

God must teach us what Biblical morality is. He must give us the understanding. He must MAKE us to go in the path of His commandments. This does not mean that we no longer have a free will, but it does mean that our free will is bent to sin. God will incline our heart unto His testimonies as we yield to the leading of the Holy Spirit. He will turn away our eyes from vanity. Vanity speaks of pride. Today's generation is proud of their sin and mockery of God! Christian, if you are bound by the vanity of the television set let God have control of your eyes. God will quicken us in HIS WAY. He will do this by establishing us in His Word. Then He can turn away our reproach.

We must pray for those who are confused concerning Biblical morality that they might be filled with the knowledge of His will in all wisdom and spiritual understanding. Then they can walk worthy of the Lord.

May our desire be to be fruitful in every good work and increase in the knowledge of God. Our very salvation may depend on our moral decisions and certainly our Christian witness does.

In closing, morality, of itself, is not salvation. We can only enter Heaven by the grace of God brought about through the shed blood of Jesus Christ on Calvary.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

October 15, 1934

THE CHURCH WHICH IS THE GROUND AND PILLAR OF TRUTH

J. H. Beer

(I Tim. 3:15.) "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and ground of the truth."

First, let us notice the foundation, it is the ground work, or lowest part of a building, which supports the other parts of the structure, as the foundation of a house. Christ Jesus both in the Old and New Testament is called a foundation. A stone. (Isa. 28:16) "...Behold, I lay in Zion for a foundation a stone, a tried stone, a precious corner stone, a sure foundation:..." Christ is the foundation on which the church is built; the foundation of all the hopes and comforts and happiness of the people of God; one who will not fail them or deceive them. He is the corner stone that unites the several parts of the building together. (I Cor. 3:11) "For other foundation can no man lay than that is laid, which is Jesus Christ." This is the foundation upon which the chosen elect of God depends.

(II Tim. 2:19) "Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, The Lord knoweth them that are his. And, let every one that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity."

Paul writing to Timothy says, "But if I tarry long, that thou mayest know how thou oughtest to behave thyself in the house of God..." That text should be preached from every pulpit, in the land. If you are not following your leader (I don't mean your pastor or preacher), Christ is the head of the church; if you are not following Christ you are no part of His elect.

In this our day leaders are advocating a double standard of Christian life, one for the older members and another for the young members, let me say what is wrong for older members is equally wrong for young members, the word of God does not teach a double standard of Christian living.

(I Cor. 1:10) "Now I beseech you, brethren, by the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that ye all speak the same thing, and that there be no divisions among you; but that ye be perfectly joined together in the same mind and in the same judgment." (II Tim. 2:20-22, Tit. 2:1-8.)

The church of Christ is the ground and pillar of truth, His true elders and ministers who are faithful to their trust are the ones who hold Christ as the way of salvation to all that obey Him, (Heb. 5:9) and are censured by the loose and worldly minded preachers as being selfish, narrow minded, and the worldliness that has destroyed the spiritual life of the church began with those loose elders and ministers, it did not begin with the young people, and is really upheld and fostered today by the older members who are helping to plan and arrange for the many vanities performed in the house of God.

The church should strive to follow Jesus, in place of federating with the world, to join in with Christ rejectors, and blasphemers in their Christless life, Post Millennial efforts to make the world better is bowing the knee to Satan, who is trying to get possession by compromise. Moral reform in God's holy pulpit has crowded out the old fashioned preaching of the word, and is a sure mark of apostasy.

(Col. 2:8-9) "Beware lest any man spoil you through philosophy and vain deceit, after the tradition of men, after the rudiments of the world, and not after Christ. For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the God head bodily."

A YOUNG MARTYR

James Alexander Stewart

Margaret Wilson was one of the Wigtown martyrs of the Covenanting days in Scotland. Margaret was seventeen when she laid down her life for Christ on the 11th of May, 1685 in Wigtown.... She was the daughter of Gilbert Wilson, a farmer in Glenvernock. The Wilson family unitedly carried on a guerrilla warfare constantly against the enemies of the gospel of their time. They hid and cared for the Covenanting preachers and sought every opportunity to magnify their Lord.

In February of 1685, Margaret ventured to creep forth from her hiding place and steal down to her home because of hunger and cold. She was soon discovered by the enemy and locked up in prison - in the "Thieves' Hole" where the worst malefactors were her associates. For six or seven weeks she lay in this dismal place. Then she was taken out and placed in another prison where constantly, day and night, she was asked to deny her faith. SHE STEADFASTLY REFUSED.

An elderly widow Margaret Lachlison, and she, along with Margaret's young sister, Agnes, aged thirteen, were sentenced to be "flogged through the streets of Wigtown by the public hangman, and thereafter be put for three days in the jugs". Gilbert Wilson paid the sum of one hundred pounds sterling for the release of Agnes, who was then absolved of her dreadful sentence. But Margaret was old enough to know her own mind and would stand or fall according to her own decision.

The townsfolk were all afoot on that fateful day of May 11, 1685. Until now, the enemies of the "Gospel in Scotland" had been put to death by burning at the stake. Now, for the first time, they planned to use water. This was to frighten the prisoners and deter the people from taking like stands for the hated truth.

There was near the town of Wigtown a little stream called Bladnoch. The course of this stream has long since been changed, but in the year 1685 the channel it had cut for itself was close beside the foot of the hill on which Wigtown stands, and the coasting sloops could sail almost to the place where the church and the graveyard

were - and are today. At low water, the Solway recedes for miles, and it is over the naked sands that the Bladnoch trickles to its foal. But when the tide returns, it rushes rapidly up the river's path and by and by overflows the banks on both sides.

That dreadful morning, two stakes had been driven in the sands within the channel of the stream while the tide was out; one farther up than the other, but both comparatively near the town. To the stake farther out they fastened Margaret Lachlison, the widow, seeking to intimidate the younger girl who was tied to the stake near the shore. The tide was as yet far out. The people stood waiting, prepared to rescue the two women at the first sign of their relenting.

Then the tide came rushing in. The people retreated up the banks for safety. The water was already lapping about the face of Margaret Lachlison, who was struggling silently.

"What think ye of your companion now?" cried some brutal official to Margaret Wilson, who felt the cold waves about her waist.

"What do I see but Christ wrestling out yonder? Think ye that we are the sufferers? No! It is Christ in us."

Then the girl sang part of the twenty-fifth Psalm and, opening her Bible, read the eighth chapter of the Epistle to the Romans. We can imagine with what pathos she read the closing words of that chapter:

"Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? shall tribulation or distress, or persecution, or famine, or nakedness, or peril, or sword? As it is written, For thy sake we are killed all the day long; we are accounted as sheep for the slaughter. Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us. For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, Nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Finally, she prayed. The water began to lap over her face. Her tormentors began to plead for her to recant. The following dialogue took place:

"Margaret, ye are young. If ye'll pray for the king, we will give you your life."

"I'll pray for salvation to all, but damnation to none," she replied.

They dashed her under the water and pulled her up again. People looked on and said, "Oh, Margaret, will ye say it?"

"Lord, give him repentance and forgiveness in salvation," she prayed.

"We do not want your prayers," cried the enemy cursing her bitterly. "Just take the oath."

"No sinful oath for me," she answered.

When Margaret was released for that moment to swear the oath, the heartbroken people cried out to Major Wiram, "She has said it! She has said it!"

But to Major Wiram the brave girl gave a flat refusal.

"I will not. I am one of Christ's children.

They placed her on the stake again and the waters of the Solway rolled over her head. Margaret was instantly in the presence of her Lord.

Selected from:

"She Was Only Twenty-Two" by Sister Mary Lou Kasza

OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

THE WISE MOTHER

J. H. Moore

It is not every mother who knows how to handle a boy, inclined to shirk duty, in such a way as to teach him lessons that he is not likely to forget. But now and then we hear of those who can handle a boy of this kind with consummate skill and at the same time retain the love and respect of the boy. When the ordinary boy is fairly beaten at his own game, he generally knows it, confesses his defeat, and in his own mind determines that he is never going to be caught napping again. I have in mind two instances worth relating. One came to my notice through the press, and the other I got by personal observation.

Robbie's hat was lost! He could not find it anywhere, and his mother was waiting for him to go out and do an errand for her.

"Hurry up, Robbie!" she said, coming into the sitting-room. "I must have that yeast cake right away."

"I can't find my hat," said Robbie, beginning to search in every nook and corner. "I guess, mamma, you will have to get somebody else to do that errand for you. I can't go down-town bareheaded."

Just then a wagon drove into the yard, and Uncle Will's voice cried out:

"Where's Robbie? I want to take him out to the farm."

"Here I am, Uncle Will, I'm coming!" cried Robbie.

And what do you suppose? In less than two seconds Robbie's hat was on his head, and he was bounding out into the yard!

His mother could hardly help smiling at the suddenness with which the little lad had found his hat after he really wanted to go; but she knew that it would not do to let his deceit go unpunished, so she hurried out into the yard. Robbie was just climbing up into the farm-wagon.

"Uncle Will," said his mother, "Robbie was going to do an errand for me, but it took him so very long to find his hat - until he heard you call - that I am afraid he will not be back in time to go out to the farm with you today."

"Ah!" said Uncle Will; "I see. No, Robbie, I do not think I can wait for you today. But some other day, when your hat doesn't keep you from getting mamma's errands done first, we will have a fine ride out to the farm."

Robbie felt his disappointment keenly. But he was an honest-

minded boy, and by the time he had returned with his mother's yeast cake, he was quite ready to admit in his own heart that his punishment was just what he deserved.

"And, mamma," he said, as he kissed her lovingly, "I don't think I shall ever lose my hat that way again."

Robbie had learned a lesson, and his good mother was just wise enough not to let him know that she had purposely outgeneraled him.

The other instance was this: George was one of the best boys in the country to work. His home was on the farm, where there was plenty to do, and too much, he thought. Like most boys at the age of fourteen, he got very tired of the work, a little discouraged, thought he ought to have some rest, and made himself believe that he was sick. He quit his work and came to his mother with his complaint. She listened to his story, as a kind mother will listen to a boy who is in trouble. She told her son that it was not necessary for him to work if he was sick, that he probably needed rest, and that he should go up to his room, go to bed and remain there during the day. George did not like the idea of going to bed - for that was no part of his purpose when he decided to quit work and appeal to his mother. But she told him that there was not better place for a sick boy than in bed, and that he must not fail to do as she had directed.

Well, George reluctantly went ot his room and was soon snugly covered up in his confortable bed. His mother waited on him kindly, and even politely, giving him a plentiful supply of the kind of tea that she knew to be just the thing for his ailment. What were George's thoughts all this time no one seems to know. But for once, at least, he made up his mind that his mother knew something about boys. The next morning found George at the breakfast table and his mother waiting on him as attentively as though the boy had just recovered from a spell of sickness. He resumed his work, a more cheerful and wiser boy, and never more tried to play sick in the presence of his wise and loving mother.

MARRIAGES

SHAFFER-PRIEST

Sis. Beverly Shaffer, daughter of Bro. Frank and Sis. Janet Shaffer of Greencastle, Pennsylvania and Matthew Priest, son of Marvin and Carolyn Priest of Greencastle, Pennsylvania were united in marriage, July 30, 1994 at Greencastle, Pennsylvania.

The couple reside at 9628 Rabbit Road South, Greencastle, Pennsylvania 17225.

ANKERBRAND-MARTIN

Sis. Caroline Ankerbrand, daughter of Bro. Woodrow and Sis. Faye Ankerbrand of Greencastle, Pennsylvania and Bro. Clarence K. Martin, son of Bro. Jerry and Sis. Naomi Martin of Smithsburg,

Maryland were united in marriage, August 20, 1994 near Greencastle, Pennsylvania.

The couple reside at 264 Milnor Road, Greencastle, Pennsylvania 17225.

OBITUARY BELLE REED

Sis. Belle Amelia Reed, 88, a lifelong Carthage, Illinois resident, died September 7, 1994 in Memorial Hospital, Carthage. She had lived in the Montibello Manor five years.

Born January 22, 1906 to Joseph A. and Sophia S. (Moesch) Kern in Carthage, Illinois, she married Leonard C. Reed, February 22, 1924 in Carthage. He died August 18, 1984.

Belle and Leonard farmed in the Carthage area for many years. They then moved into Carthage where Belle tended her many flowers and maintained her sunflower picket fence. She and Leonard were charter members of the South Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church near Astoria, Illinois from May 31, 1931.

Survivors include a brother, Howard Kern of Carthage; three nieces and one nephew. Preceding her in death was one brother Charles Kern.

Services were conducted in the Lamport Funeral Home in Carthage by Elder William Carpenter and Elder Ray Reed.

Burial in Moss Ridge Cemetery in Carthage, where Elder William Heisey officiated.

NEWS ITEMS

ENGLEWOOD, OHIO

October 22 is the date for the Englewood Congregation's Lovefeast. The Lord willing, we will meet at 11:00 A.M., Saturday. The time of the Lovefeast is 7:00 P.M. We invite all who can to enjoy Saturday and Sunday with us. Praise the Lord, we still have the opportunity to partake of the Holy Sacraments of our Savior.

Sister Ruth Speicher, Cor.

PLEASANT RIDGE, OHIO

The Lord willing, Pleasant Ridge Congregation will have their Lovefeast services on Saturday and Sunday, November 12 and 13. Services begin Saturday at 11:00 A.M. with evening service at 7:00 P.M. There will be a noon meal on Sunday.

Sister Marjorie Flory, Cor.

PINE RIDGE, MISSISSIPPI

The Pine Ridge Congregation in Mississippi, invites you to a Lovefeast service to be held, November 19 and 20, services starting at 2:00 P.M. Saturday. We are tentatively planning a preaching service on Friday evening, November 18.

Our building project is progressing nicely. We would like to thank everyone who helped make this project possible. Without your help, it could not have been accomplished. May the Lord bless you for it.

Sister Ruth Ann Wells, Cor.

QUINTER, KANSAS

The Quinter Congregation is looking forward to our Revival Meetings, beginning November 27 continuing through December 4. The Lord willing, Bro. Phil Gish from Ohio will be our evangelist. We plan to close with a Lovefeast, Saturday, December 3. We invite all who can to come and share this time with us as we worship our God.

Sister Ruthie Clark, Cor.

THANK YOU

I wish to thank all the Brethren and Sisters who sent me cards for my 80th birthday. I did so much enjoy them all. They came from all over the brotherhood. Sorry to be so long getting the Thank You out. We have had so much sickness in the family.

I can only say thank you and may God bless you.

Sister Iona Rush

CORRECTION

On page 7 of the September 1, 1994 issue an inadvertent mistake appears. Please read John 13 in place of John 12.

Editor's note - The following thank you note was misplaced by the Editor, it appears now with his apologies.

THANK YOU

Greetings to the many Brethren and Sisters and Friends, who remembered us on our sixtieth wedding anniversary with gifts, cards, and prayers. They brought back many precious memories of past years across the Brotherhood. We want to thank you for them. May God bless and keep you. We still need your prayers.

Bro. James and Sis. Amy Kegerreis

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1994

November 6 - Paul Before Festus - Acts 25:1-27.

1. Why did the Jews continually insist upon Paul being put to death?
2. Why did Paul appeal to Caesar instead of returning to Jerusalem for trial before the Jews?

November 13 - Paul Before Agrippa - Acts 26:1-18.

1. Did King Agrippa understand Jewish customs and ways?
2. Why Did Paul relate his life's story and conversion to Agrippa?

November 20 - Thanksgiving - Nehemiah 12:27-47.

1. What was the occasion for this celebration of worship, rejoicing and thanksgiving?
2. What was the purpose of two companies of them that gave thanks?

November 27 - "Almost Thou Persuadest Me To Be A Christian"-Acts 26:19-32.

1. What are works met for repentance?
2. How did Paul say he was able to continue on in the Lord's work?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR NOVEMBER 1994

November 6 - Youth - Ecc. 12:1, Ecc. 11:9, Ecc. 12:13-14.

1. What is the whole duty of man?
2. What should be the attitude of our heart?

November 13 - God's Protection - Psalm 37:29-40, Dan. 3:8-30.

1. To whom has God promised His protection?
2. Were Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego sure that God's protection would bring them through the furnace alive?

November 20 - Thanksgiving - Psalm 117, Dan. 4:1-37.

1. Why should we thank and praise the Lord?
2. Was King Nebuchadnezzar thankful?

November 27 - Repentance - II Pet. 3:9, Jonah 3:1-10.

1. Who needs to repent?
2. What brought Jonah to repentance?

STATEMENT OF OWNERSHIP

Statement of Ownership, Management and Circulation (Act of August 12, 1970; Section 3685, Title 39, United States Code). Showing the ownership, management and circulation of The Bible Monitor, published semi-monthly at Wauseon, Ohio 43567, October 15, 1994.

1. The names and addresses of the editor, publishers, and owners are: EDITOR, Milton Cook, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223; PUBLISHER, Tomahawk Printing, Inc., 4017 Co. Rd. 11, Wauseon, Ohio 43567; OWNER, Dunkard Brethren Church, 1138 East 12th Street, Beaumont, CA 92223.
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BIBLE MONITOR

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NO. 21

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

LIFTING AND LEANING

There are two kinds of people on earth today,
Just two kinds of people, no more, I say.

Not the good and the bad, for 'tis well understood
The good are half bad and the bad are half good.

Not the happy and sad, for the swift-flying years
Bring each man his laughter and each man his tears.

Not the rich and the poor, for to count a man's wealth
You must first know the state of his conscience and health.

Not the humble and proud, for in life's busy span
Who puts on vain airs is not counted a man.

No! the two kinds of people on earth I mean
Are the people who lift and the people who lean.

Wherever you go you will find the world's masses
Are ever divided in just these two classes.

And, strangely enough, you will find, too, I ween,
There is only one lifter to twenty who lean.

In which class are you? Are you easing the load
Of overtaxed lifters who toil down the road?

Or are you a leaner who lets others bear
Your portion of worry and labor and care?

-Ella Wheeler Wilcox

UNTHANKFUL

We live in a land of many freedoms and abundant material blessings. God has blessed this land as no other. Perhaps because we are so blessed, we often take these blessings for granted. Although we have not appreciated these blessings, God has not removed them from us. The time may come when He will do so. This attitude also existed among the children of Israel.

They too were very blessed and very unthankful. Although God provided for them magnificently, they murmured and complained the whole way. The writer of the 78th Psalm also looked back at the children of Israel as examples of unthankfulness. Ps 78:11, (The children of Israel) "...forgat his works, and his wonders that he had shown them." Hopefully, this recognition of their ancestors' failures would help them to avoid the same mistakes. Unfortunately, they were just as shortsighted in their own time and way. Again, hopefully we can profit by the failure of both groups of people. Unfortunately, it seems we do not learn from past mistakes any better than they did. This, in spite of the fact, that we are better equipped to do better. We have the Holy Spirit abiding in us, which they did not.

The children of Israel began their career of unthankfulness before their journey through the wilderness. They did not appreciate being stirred from the security of their bondage in Egypt. Although they groaned under the weight of the oppression of their Egyptian

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masters, they were comfortable. They wished Moses would not provoke Pharaoh, but he did. They were not ready to leave their homes of four hundred and thirty years. Most people today are comfortable in their bondage. They do not wish to make a change in their relationship with God or in their lifestyles. They feel comfortable where they are, although they know their ultimate end will be affected by their lack of change. It is difficult for people to make decisions, whether great or small. It is no different with the choice of Jesus Christ as Savior.

They had barely begun their journey when they became fainthearted. He had provided a cloud to protect them by day and a pillar of fire to lighten their way by night. All they could see was the Red Sea before them and Pharaoh's army behind them. They felt trapped although God had their deliverance all arranged. Many Christians become fainthearted as they negotiate the journey of life. They have many fears as they see supposed dangers on every side. Too often they yield to their fears and go no further, although God always provides a way of escape.

After crossing through the Red Sea, they began to long for the things they had known back in Egypt. The material possessions of life sometimes own people more than people own their possessions. There is a longing for pleasures and possessions left behind in the preChristian life. The old social pleasures can become attractive, when there is a lack of growth in the Christian life.

They complained although God provided them with food throughout their journey. Rather than giving thanks for the manna, they grew tired of it and wished for a change. Manna was a special food prepared for them by God. When their journey was at an end, it did not appear any longer. They had to labor for their food in the Promised Land. This shows that we can not be at "ease in Zion"; there is a work for each Christian to do.

They not only complained, sometimes they actually rebelled against the leadership of Moses and ultimately against God. They desired a golden calf, while Moses was receiving the Law on Mt. Sinai. They followed leaders who opposed Moses and Aaron. They paid some terrific penalties for their rebelliousness. Sometimes it is easy to follow the discontented. They promise a better way. Whether that way is more or less disciplined, it does not matter, there will be those who will follow and cause strife and sorrow in the Church. Many are discontented because they have not been advanced as they had wished. Others are discontented because it is a feature of their personalities. Still others are rebellious because they do not wish any restraints to be placed upon them. Some are lured by Satan to bring discord within God's family.

There are many other parallels between the children of Israel and modern Christians. Although we may soundly condemn them, there

is little that separates them from us. Human nature has not changed over the centuries, so God still has the same kind of people to deal with, now as then.

Is your life a better witness of what God has provided for you, than theirs was?

MCC

THOUGHTS ON "THANKSGIVING"

"...I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord:..." Philippians 3:8. This is the happy season of ripening cornfields, of the merry song of the reapers, of the secured and garnered grain. If we are to bear much fruit, we must be buried in darkness and solitude. After Paul considered everything he had accomplished in his life, he said that it was all worthless when compared with knowing Christ.

So we wonder, as we harvest the fields, and fill the bins, where do we place our gratitude for the harvest. Many of us don't till the soil or reap the crops of the field. We are employed in different areas, for different reasons, but our harvest is still from the Lord and all belongs to Him. Many times we fail to be Thankful as we receive our paychecks, thinking we justly deserve them. We've really worked for it! But we should remember that the earth is the Lord's, and the fullness thereof. "Thankfulness", then is the parent of all other virtues.

In the two Epistles of Peter's, he wrote to "strangers" which were actually "pilgrims." The word "strangers" used in I Peter 1:1, and I Peter 2:11 comes from a Greek word (parepidemos), meaning a "resident foreigner," and its only other New Testament usage is in Hebrews 11:13, speaking of the ancient patriarchs, who confessed that they were "strangers" and "pilgrims" on the earth. We give honor today to the American "Pilgrims," as they called themselves (thinking of these very verses), who left their homeland in order to better serve God in a foreign land. The "pilgrims" to whom Peter was writing likewise had been "scattered abroad" for their faith (see Acts 8:4). While we are here, we may endure many trials and sorrows, just as did those Massachusetts pilgrims, but He nevertheless supplies our needs, just as He did for them, and we ought to abound in "Thanksgiving", as they did. Of all people in the history of the world, none have more cause for "Thanksgiving" than American Christians. Therefore, since we are "enriched in everything", through our Savior, this "causeth through us Thanksgiving to God" (II Corinthians 9:11), and we should be "abounding therein with Thanksgiving." Colossians 2:7.

In Isaiah 55:1-3, we are instructed to "come buy wine and milk without money and without price." Food costs money, lasts only a short time, and meets only our physical needs. God offers us free

nourishment that feeds our souls, and we can have it if "we come", "listen", "seek", and "call upon God". God's salvation is freely offered. But to nourish our souls, we must eagerly receive it. We will starve spiritually without this food as surely as we will starve without our daily bread. Are you thirsty, or complacent and indifferent, so satisfied with your own experience that you want nothing more of God? Beware of building your faith on experience, or your life will not ring true and will only sound the note of a critical spirit. It is a humbling experience to knock at God's door, you have to knock with the crucified thief, but to him who knocks, the door will be opened.

"Enter into his gates with Thanksgiving, and into his courts with praise: be thankful unto him, and bless his name." Psalm 100:4. The process of truly giving thanks is more difficult than some of us imagine. It is difficult because we tend to believe that we deserve the good things we have. We believe we have earned these things by our hard work, ingenuity, and skill. Our pride prevents our thanks. Giving thanks is also difficult because many of us find ourselves in situations in which the bad things seem to outnumber the good things. We have soured ourselves to the point where we don't want to give thanks for anything. Our lack of perspective prevents our thanks. Being thankful is difficult because we need to identify the person we are thanking. We cannot properly thank forces or events. It is a person who must be thanked, and as soon as we thank a person, we acknowledge our indebtedness to that person. Thanksgiving Day is an occasion to thank people for the share they have had in our lives, but, even more so, it is a time to declare our absolute dependence upon God the Father for life, for gifts, and for His Son, Jesus Christ.

The United States has set aside a day of national thanksgiving. Believers will go to worship to thank God for His gifts during the past year. It's fitting for a nation to acknowledge that God is the source of their good gifts. And it's a great privilege to be part of a nation that will stop to thank God. Citizens of Canada did that last month. Whether or not you live in a country that declares a special day of thanksgiving, bear in mind that the Lord wants all of us to thank Him as individuals. Recount in your mind and heart how good God has been to you. Lift your heart in a special prayer of thanks to God and lift your voice in a song of thanks. In the one-hundredth Psalm, the Psalmist recites some of our reasons for thanks:

1. "God made us" (100:3), and life is a precious gift.
2. "We are his people" (100:3), and salvation has come to us through His only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
3. "His love endures forever" (100:5) in spite of all the obstacles we put in its way.

4. "His faithfulness continues through all generations" (100:5)
and He can be trusted.

If you live in freedom or under oppression, if you're healthy or sick, if you're rich or poor, give thanks. No matter what, give thanks anyway. The Word of God invites us all to do that. The phrase, "Thanksgiving is Thanks living" should be our motto each and every day we live, and our lives should manifest our thankfulness to Him in our every word and deed.

"And whatsoever ye do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks to God and the Father by him." Colossians 3:17. Genuine thankfulness is marked by a desire to express itself with more than words. We want to give something in return, not as payment for a debt but as gratitude for a gift. Christ loved us so much that He gave Himself for us. (Ephesians 5:2). Because of His sacrificial death, our sins are forgiven (1:7), and we enjoy wonderful spiritual blessings (1:3-5). Although we will want to respond by thanking Him with our lips for all He has done for us (5:4), true gratitude will also be shown in other areas of our lives. To express our appreciation, we ought to walk in love (5:2), avoid any hint of immorality or greed (5:3), and clean up our language (5:4). That's "Thanks living", and it pleases God. Once we realize that it is through the salvation of Jesus Christ that we are made perfectly fit for the purpose of God, we will understand why Jesus Christ is so strict and relentless in His demands. He demands absolute righteousness from His servants, because He has put into them the very nature of God. So we must not trust man who fails, but Jesus who never fails. We need to be like a sparrow, always singing and reaping, and never sowing. Jesus, what a source, what a supply, what a channel! Are we truly "Thankful" for His gift, and do we really show it in our word and deeds? What we already have is far greater than anything we could ever desire.

"Hear me when I call, O God of my righteousness: thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress; have mercy on me, and hear my prayer." Psalm 4:1. This psalm may have been written as David was asking his enemies to reconsider their support of Absalom. This is one of the grandest testimonies ever given by man to the moral government of God. It is not a man's thanksgiving that he has been set free FROM suffering. It is a thanksgiving that he has been set free THROUGH suffering: "Thou hast enlarged me when I was in distress." He declares the sorrows of life to have been themselves the source of life's enlargement. "If Joseph had not been Egypt's prisoner, he had never been Egypt's governor. The iron chain about his feet ushered in the golden chain about his neck." (selected).

For sometime, now, we have been thanking and praising our

God, even for circumstances and situations we don't understand, and can't control. It is our great desire, that we will endeavor to be more grateful for the things we have and enjoy, and yes, even for things beyond our control. As we serve an honest and faithful God, let us affirm to be more like Him, and less what we have been, trusting His grace and mercy, and thereby believing and living our faith in His Son. Then He will make us broken bread and poured-out wine with which we feed and nourish others. "And now, Brethren, I commend you to God, and to the word of His grace, which is able to build you up, and to give you an inheritance among all them which are sanctified." Acts 20:32.

With thankful hearts give praise to Jesus
For His blessings without end;
Let's give to Him our full devotion,
He's our Savior and our Friend.

Lyle Gish
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FEETWASHING - HUMILITY OR SOMETHING MORE?

When John 13 is read at the communion service, I often ponder on verses 6 through 9. Peter questions the Lord on the washing of his feet. He does not accept Jesus's explanation, until he is told in verse 8, "If I wash thee not, thou hast no part with me."

Leviticus 8:5-6, "And Moses said unto the congregation, This is the thing which the Lord commanded to be done. And Moses brought Aaron and his sons, and washed them with water."

In Exodus 30:17-18 Moses is told by the Lord to make a laver (vessel) of brass and where he should place it. In verse 19 it says, "For Aaron and his sons shall wash their hands and their feet thereat:" Verse 21 goes on "So they shall wash their hands and their feet, that they die not: and it shall be a statute for ever to them, even to him and to his seed throughout their generations."

Did these scriptures cause Peter to say "Lord, not my feet only, but also my hands and my head."? John 13:9.

Was this part of the preparation for Jesus to offer Himself as the sacrifice for our sins? Could this also have been the anointing of the disciples into the priesthood that Peter later wrote about? I Peter 2:5, "Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ." Verse 9: "But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light."

I Corinthians 11:26, "For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink

this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come." Most, if not all, Christian churches observe communion in some form. But, the supper with feetwashing, as commanded in John 13:14-15, is not observed, deemed as unnecessary (in our time) by most churches. I believe this is part of the falling away mentioned in II Thessalonians 2:3.

Because of this, we who observe it need to be very careful that we don't let it become a dead tradition. Partaking of the bread and cup, baptism, or feetwashing does not save or cleanse us. Recognizing that we are sinners (separated from God, doomed to eternal damnation) and repenting of our sins and accepting that the blood of Jesus alone can cleanse and save us is the only way. (Acts 4:12)

Then, as Paul said in Philippians 3:14, "I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus." We keep baptism, feetwashing, and the supper and cup as we "diligently seek him." (Hebrews 11:6)

We present our bodies to Him as a living sacrifice, (Romans 12:1) that we are the temples not made with hands that He dwelleth in. (Acts 7:48 and I Corinthians 3:16)

"The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ, and the love of God, and the COMMUNION OF THE HOLY GHOST, be with you all. Amen." II Corinthians 13:14.

Brother Steven Edward Beeman
168 WolfBridge Rd.
Carlisle, PA 17013

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE A Bride for Christ

I doubt that most of us, who live in this modern western civilization, understand much of what the Bible says concerning the taking of His Bride. This illustration, concerning the Jewish wedding, was used because the Jewish people were the ones who were hearing the message. We need to understand the Jewish wedding in order to know what God is saying to us.

The first step toward a Jewish wedding was the betrothal. In the betrothal period, the bridegroom takes the initiative and finds the bride whom he desires. He travels from his house to the bride's home. There he makes a bargain with her father and they agree upon a price. After the groom pays the price, he seals the bargain by making a covenant relationship. This was done by pouring a cup of wine and while drinking it stating, "The bargain is sealed. The price is paid. She belongs to me." The groom leaves and goes back to his father's house, alone.

Next to his father's house, and sometimes even in his father's house, the groom begins to build a place where he and his bride can live. When he is through building the dwelling place, he goes back to take his bride. The bride, traditionally, does not know when he will come. Normally it is at night but she does not know exactly when it will be. All she knows for sure is that she is to be ready. She is to have her dress completed and have a full bridal party ready, so on a moment's notice, when he comes back and calls, "Are you ready?" She can quickly gather her things and rush out to meet him. It is then that they go back to his father's house.

That is the signal, to the family and friends of the couple, that seven days later there will be a great wedding ceremony. At the end of the seven days, they are to attend the celebration. During the seven days, the bride and the bridegroom are in his father's house, they seal the bond of marriage. For the first time, they have a physical uniting and they spend this seven day period together. At the end of this time, the groom comes out and introduces his bride to all the guests who come to the celebration.

There are some awesome parallels between the Jewish wedding ceremony and Christ's interaction with His bride. First, in Ephesians 5, we find Christ saying that the Church IS a bride, not LIKE a bride, but IS a bride. All through the Bible, we find that Christ desires His bride. If you are single, you might be quite eager to marry, so you can relate to this desire. Remember that Christ has waited nineteen hundred years for His bride. He has been patiently, but no doubt anxiously, awaiting the moment when He can come and claim her for His own.

As we continue to look at parallels, we are reminded that there was a time when Christ left His Father's house (Heaven) and made a trip to earth. The price asked for the bride (the church) was His own precious blood. Without question, He was willing to pay the price. He went to the cross and died. He loved His bride so much that He was willing to pay that kind of price.

On the night He was betrayed, He took the cup with His disciples. He drank it to seal the bargain and to show that He was willing to pay the price of giving His life to redeem His bride.

Finally, just as it happened in the Jewish wedding, He left the earth and returned to His Father's House in Heaven to prepare a home for His bride. Just as the Jewish groom returns, so is He going to return. We must be ready for His return, even as the Jewish bride was in preparation. Seven years later, He will come back with the bride and introduce her to the world. For the first time, she will be unveiled.

There are many remarkable parallels between the Jewish wedding and Christ and His Church. It is clear. Can we miss it? We can be assured that Christ will return for His bride. The message is clear.

Bro. Len Wertz

THE PROMISES OF GOD

Webster's dictionary states, "A promise is an agreement to do or not to do something." Also, "A promise is a basis for expecting."

God's word is full of promises. I will refer to a few of them.

A born again child of God has many promises THAT WILL BE FULFILLED.

II Peter 3:9, "The Lord is not slack concerning his promise, as some men count slackness; but is long suffering to us-ward, not willing that any should perish, but that all should come to repentance."

In II Peter 1:4, we read, "Whereby are given unto us EXCEEDING GREAT and PRECIOUS PROMISES: that by these ye might be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the CORRUPTION that is in the world through lust."

Gal. 3:29, "And if ye be Christ's, then are ye Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."

Hebrews 6:18 informs us that it is impossible for God to lie. For that very reason we have consolation that every promise will be fulfilled.

In II Chronicles 7:14 we read, "If MY PEOPLE, which are called by my name, shall HUMBLE themselves, and PRAY, and SEEK my face, and TURN from their WICKED WAYS; then will I HEAR from heaven, and will FORGIVE their sin, and will HEAL their land." That was a promise given to the Israelites. That is a promise given to this generation. But alas! People, even many so called Christians, WILL NOT HUMBLE themselves enough to kneel in prayer. Many are too PROUD to say grace before they eat a meal.

What percentage of the people living today are seeking the Lord?

How many are willing to TURN from the world to the LORD? FEW.

Jesus tells us in Matthew 7:14, "Because strait is the gate, and narrow is the way, which leadeth unto life, and FEW THERE BE THAT FIND IT."

God's promises are conditional. If we keep true to our baptismal vows and keep His commandments, He will fulfill His promises.

Another promise of God is found in I John 1:9, "If we CONFESS our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." What a promise!

Matthew. 6:33, "But SEEK ye FIRST the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things (in the fore part of this chapter) shall be added unto you." God knows arithmetic. He not only adds, but He often multiplies.

True Christians have promises, THREE FOLD, if, when in ill health we call for the anointing, as recorded in the fifth chapter of James. The prayers of faith SHALL SAVE the sick. The Lord SHALL RAISE him up. If he hath committed sins, they SHALL BE FORGIVEN him.

We should be thankful that we have such a loving, kind, much concerned, Father in Heaven, who gave His only begotten Son on the Cross of Calvary that we might be eligible to receive the fulfillment of His countless promises.

In Matthew. 7:7, we have another three fold promise. "ASK, and IT SHALL BE GIVEN UNTO YOU, SEEK, and YE SHALL FIND; KNOCK, and IT SHALL BE OPENED UNTO YOU."

To obtain God's promises we have our own PART TO DO FIRST.

We should be very careful in our Christian living.

The Apostle Paul gave due warning in Hebrews. 4:1, "Let us therefore fear, lest, a promise being left us of entering into HIS REST, any of you should seem to come short of it."

The promise that we want to make sure of is recorded in 1 John 2:25, "And this is the PROMISE THAT HE HATH PROMISED US, even Eternal Life."

Bro. Paul R. Myers
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Canton, Ohio 44718

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 1, 1934
UNION
Josie Kintner

In the beginning God created every tree and living creature after its own kind and saw that it was good. (Gen. 1:26.) God said let us make man after our own likeness and let them have dominion over all the earth. (verse 27) So God created man in His own image, in the image of God created He him; male and female created He them and said unto them, in verse 28, be ye fruitful and multiply and replenish the earth.

We must also bear spiritual fruit and the fruit of our lives shows what kind of an inner or spiritual life we are living; therefore we must be very careful what kind of a life we live for some one is sure to follow in our footsteps in one way or another, either for good or for bad.

If we are of a bright cheerful disposition trying to do all we can to help others and try to live as close to the Master as we can we will be an inspiration to others to try to live a better life. But on the other hand if we lead just the opposite kind of a life it will tend to lead them on the downward road. "Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap." (Gal. 6:7.)

"Therefore we ought to give the more earnest heed to the things which we have heard, lest at any time we should let them slip." (Heb. 2:1). We need to remember all these things as they will make us stronger in the faith and bind us closer together. We must be faithful to our promise to God and the church.

If we have that undivided love for God we will be obedient to His will and obedience means union and strength. We should not show more love for one brother or sister than we do for another, if we do we are a respecter of persons; we are all one in Christ Jesus and only love

should reign in our hearts. "Let love be without dissimulation. Abhor that which is evil; cleave to that which is good." (Rom. 12:9.) "Abstain from all appearance of evil." (I Thess. 5:22.) These scriptures should lead us to a stronger union.

In Num. 15:37-39, we find the Lord told Moses to tell the children of Israel to put fringes in the borders of their garments and that they should put upon the fringe a ribbon of blue, all were to be the same and it was to be a reminder that they should do all the commandments - the mark was to be plain so that all could see it. This is only another way of strengthening one another and making our union stronger.

(II Cor. 6:17-18) tells us to "...come out from among them, and be ye separate, saith the Lord, and touch not the unclean thing; and I will receive you, And will be a Father unto you, and ye shall be my sons and daughters,..."

O, how much we are in need of reminders today when every style and evil the human mind can think of is thrown before the people continually. Now is the time that the stronger ones should put forth more effort to help the weaker ones; for we are to help bear the infirmities of the weak. Here I would like to impress upon the mind of the reader the importance of uniformity or oneness. If we dress plain and in the order of the church and do away with the vain and gaudy styles of this world then we can be "Read and known of all men." Then people can tell at a glance just where we belong, and not only that but if we live and dress as we should it will help us to get rid of this lust after the things of this world and we will not be seen anywhere that a Christian should not be. But we must be sure it is not only the outward appearance, we must also have our hearts right with God.

Take army life, for instance, if a soldier does not have on the uniform designated by the government he has no protection, even when he is with his own company for his sign of protection is gone and he may be taken for an enemy or a spy.

(Isaiah 1:19-20) "If ye be willing and obedient, ye shall eat the good of the land: But if ye refuse and rebel, ye shall be devoured with the sword: for the mouth of the Lord hath spoken it." Jer. 6:16-20 tells us that we must obey the Lord and walk in His ways or we will not be able to stand.

In union there is strength and safety.

Let us all work and pray that we may become more united in the church.

OBITUARY PAUL BLOCHER

Bro. Paul David Blocher, who was born February 23, 1919 in Tonasket, Washington, departed this life, October 1, 1994, at his home, at the age of 75 years 7 months and 8 days.

He was the son of the late Edward and Lena (Inks) Blocher. A still born daughter preceded his passing.

He is survived by his wife of 48 years, Esther (Beery) Blocher, a daughter, Joyce George and her husband Robert of Halifax, Pennsylvania, a son Dale and his wife Grace of Red Lion, Pennsylvania and three grandchildren, Jared and Gloria Moore and Andrew Blocher.

He is also survived by a brother, Arthur, and two sisters, Hazel Decker and Alice French of Modesto, California and two sisters, Vera Smith and Anna Kinser of Waterford, California, and a brother Earl of Lynn, Indiana, plus many nieces and nephews.

He gave his life to the Lord on May 7, 1932. In later life he very faithfully served in the deacon's office, the ministry and eldership.

In addition to the ministry, he labored as a carpenter for thirty years.

He was a member of the Dunkard Brethren Church in Englewood, Ohio where they lived for many years. In 1982 they moved to Waterford, California, a home very dear to him.

In 1989 due to his failing health, they moved to Red Lion, Pennsylvania to be closer to their children. At that time he was diagnosed with cancer. Throughout all the sickness that he endured for the past five years, he never complained. His concern always seemed to be for others. Between treatments he enjoyed visiting with family and friends and he made two trips to California.

The family wishes to express a warm thank-you for the many prayers, visits, flowers and words of encouragement during his illness. The hundreds of cards and letters were a real blessing and comfort to him.

He was a beloved husband, father, brother, and grandfather. We would like to share a note that was found in his Bible:

"My goal is to be more sanctified, more righteous, more holy, more perfect through faith and obedience. A brighter light, a better witness to help to reach the unsaved."

Funeral services were held on Wednesday, October 5, 1994, at the Shrewsbury Assembly of God Church. Pastor G. Delmas Hock of the Evangelical Brethren Church gave the opening message. Bro. Ray Stuber of the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church brought a sermon: "Flight 430". A special song, "I Have Returned" was sung by Bro. Jason Reed, Bro. Merle and Bro. Chad Sweitzer, and Bro. Robert Lehigh.

Pallbearers were Dale Blocher, Andrew Blocher, Stephen Blocher, Robert George, Jared Moore and Terry Stump. Burial was in the Shrewsbury Dunkard Brethren Church Cemetery. Brother Paul Stump of the Englewood Congregation had the closing scripture and prayer.

Don't grieve for me, for now I'm free
I'm following the path God laid for me
I took His hand when I heard Him call
I turned my back and left it all.

I could not stay another day,
To laugh, to love to work or play,
Tasks left undone must stay that way
I found that peace at the close of day.

If my parting has left a void
Then fill it with remembered joy.
A friendship shared, a laugh, a kiss,
Ah yes, these things I too will miss.

Be not burdened with times of sorrow
I wish you the sunshine of tomorrow
My life's been full, I savored much
Good friends, good times, a loved one's touch.

Perhaps my time seemed all too brief
Don't lengthen it now with undue grief.
Lift up your heart and share with me
God wanted me now; He set me free.

Selected by the Family

NEWS ITEMS

MINISTERIAL LIST CHANGE

The new address of Brother Merle Sweitzer is 255 Pleasant Grove Road, Red Lion, Pennsylvania 17356

BETHEL, PENNSYLVANIA

We, the Bethel Congregation, had the privilege of enjoying a week of revival with Elder Dennis St. John as the speaker. He brought forth the Word from night to night with warnings and encouragement so we each one may grow thereby and have a greater determination to serve our Lord faithfully as days come and go.

We were made to rejoice over one young soul who accepted the Lord as his Savior. May he ever be faithful and true.

We were happy to have Sis. St. John and children along, also. May the Lord continue to bless Bro. Dennis as he preaches and labors for the Lord.

Sister Della Ebling, Cor.

MECHANICSBURG, PENNSYLVANIA

Praise the Lord, we had our Revival at Mechanicsburg with Bro. Galen Shelly in late August and early September. We enjoyed the Word of God as it was broken to us. We thank everyone that came

out to worship with us and everyone that offered a prayer on our behalf. God's preached Word will not return unto Him void. Amen!

Brother Steven Beeman, Cor.

NOTE OF THANKS

We want to thank you all for all the cards, flowers, balloons, visits, monetary gifts and words of encouragement while Jena was in the hospital after her accident. We are so thankful for her speedy recovery. The Lord has been so good to us. Thanks for all the prayers you offered in our behalf. Words can not express our thanks. God bless you all for your loving, caring and sharing.

In His Love,
Brother Merle, Sister Cindy,
Jena Sweitzer and family



Jesus Christ is the answer to a human heart.

Life is full of shadows, but the sunshine makes them all.

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

A BROKEN HEART

A broken heart, my God, my King,
Is all the sacrifice I bring;
The God of grace will ne'er despise
A broken heart for sacrifice.

My soul is humbled in the dust,
And owns thy dreadful sentence just;
Look down, O Lord, with pitying eye,
And save the soul condemn'd to die.

Then will I teach the world thy ways;
Sinners shall learn thy sov'reign grace;
I'll lead them to my Saviour's blood,
And they shall praise a pard'ning God.

O, may thy love inspire my tongue;
Salvation shall be all my song;
And all my pow'rs shall join to bless
The Lord, my strength and righteousness.

-Isaac Watts

IVORY SOAP™ CHRISTIANS

It was the long time claim of the makers of Ivory Soap™ that it was 99 and 44/100% pure. That represents a product that was carefully formulated and produced. Very few products can match that high rate of purity. Whether it was actually that pure or it was a simple advertising gimmick does not matter, since many people believed the claim and bought the soap.

Perhaps this is as pure as soap can be made. While it represents a noble attempt to make an outstanding product, it still admits the impossibility of perfection. When a run of soap was produced, the makers were aiming not at 100% pure but 99 and 44/100% pure. That is not perfection.

Perfection is humanly unattainable. Imperfectibility is illustrated in the computer field. By the time a new, improved computer gets to the market, it is obsolescent. Someone has made improvements that make what was supposedly the latest thing old before it can be purchased. If a purchaser wants to buy a computer, that could never be improved, he would end up never buying one, because computers are being constantly improved. Thus is the state of human perfectibility. Men may come close but are destined to fail.

As individuals must fail in perfecting what they produce, so they will fail in perfecting themselves. Many try to perfect their physical bodies. They exercise to their bodies' utmost ability. They eat only certain foods. They suffer to make their bodies perfect. Usually, despite their best efforts, their bodies will not totally yield to their demands. It may be because there is some genetic defect in their bodies or because they grow tired of their

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Spartan regimen. Others may try similar efforts to train their minds, so they may amass knowledge. They, too, often tire of the effort.

What is impossible with human beings is possible with God. When God looked upon fallen individuals on this Earth, He realized there was none who could be perfect, even when they attempted to follow the commandments, He had given them. Most did not even make a half-hearted attempt at keeping His commands. God's greatest effort to perfect men was to send His Son to Earth. When Jesus lived among men, most did not realize who He was or His purpose. He had come to seek those who would do His Father's will, but most had their own ideas about how to do that. So they chose to oppose Him. Their opposition did not make Him any less perfect than what He had been. In fact His perfection shone out all the more because of their imperfection. They seemingly could not recognize their own imperfections. He came as the solution to their greatest problem but they rejected Him.

He lived a perfect life. Adam had had the opportunity to be perfect in the Garden of Eden, but had failed when he and Eve fell to the tempter. Although the first opportunity had been squandered, Jesus, as the Second Adam, came to give men another chance. He was perfect and He did not fail.

Since He was perfect, He was the perfect sacrifice demanded by God's Law. He was sacrificed as the sin offering for all men. That offering was effective only for those who would accept it and acknowledge their imperfection and their lack of self-perfectibility. People are imperfect and must realize that they need help to please God. God's love is demonstrated by the help He has provided for the needs of each one. It is available for the acceptance of it. Unfortunately, too many turn from that proffered help and go on to meet God, not as their adoptive Father, but as their Judge.

Through acceptance of the sacrifice that Jesus made on Calvary, confession of the sins, that made it necessary for Him to pay that high price, and triune immersion for identification with His death, burial and resurrection, a sinful person can become a member of the Family of God. This will justify him before God. It will mean that as far as God is concerned, there never was any sin in that person's life, although he may have been the vilest sinner on the face of the Earth.

Having received such a tremendous love gift, men should desire to serve the God, who has given so freely. Too often Christians are like **Ivory Soap™**. They try only to be almost perfect. They have a tendency to presume that God will forgive them, although they have willingly entered into forbidden areas of life. They think there is no need to be careful about

their activities for God will surely forgive. They are shooting for a life that is less than the high mark of God's calling.

99 and 44/100% pure may seem good enough, but surely you want to live your life above the level sought by a worldly soap company.

MCC

WHO IS THE KING OF GLORY?

Can we know God? Is God someone whom we can get to know?

The Egyptian Pharaoh asked Moses, "Who is the LORD, that I should obey his voice?" (Exodus 5:2)

The Babylonian king, Nebuchadnezzar, asked Shadrach, Meshach, and Abednego, when he wanted them to worship the golden image of himself, "Who is that God that shall deliver you out of my hands?" (Daniel 3:15)

Job quoted the wicked as saying, "What is the Almighty, that we should serve him?" (Job 21:15)

The prophet Isaiah questioned, "To whom then will ye liken God? or what likeness will ye compare unto him?" (Isaiah 40:18)

Does God desire that we learn more about Him? Does God desire that we know Him?

When Jesus was praying in the Garden of Gethsemane, He made this statement (as recorded in John 17:3) "And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom thou hast sent."

Jesus was saying that knowing God, and His Son Jesus Christ, is life eternal. Therefore, we can conclude that our eternal life rests on whether or not we know God. Thus, knowing God becomes pretty important!

God says that if anybody wants to boast, let him or her boast in the fact that they understand and know Him, and how He functions (see Jeremiah 9:24).

Obviously, this is an overwhelming subject. For the purpose of this article, the scope of the topic will be limited to just one of God's abundant attributes.

The Self Existence of God.

God's life comes from Himself. "For with thee is the fountain of life: in thy light shall we see light." (Psalm 36:9)

We humans cannot fathom the depths of this truth about God. Each of us derives life from another! We were born of a mother. Our parents nurtured us and took care of us for many years, until we became able to provide for ourselves.

God's existence is not derived from anybody or anything else. God had no parents. Furthermore, God had no beginning.

The Bible does not take a lot of pains to prove the existence of God;

rather, the existence of God is assumed. When the Apostle Paul was preaching in Athens to the philosophers (who believed in many gods), he boldly declared, "God that made the world and all things therein, seeing that he is Lord of heaven and earth, dwelleth not in temples made with hands; Neither is worshipped with men's hands, as though he needed any thing, seeing he giveth to all life, and breath, and all things." (Acts 17:24-25)

Instead of deriving His life from someone or something else, God gives life to everything that moves.

While it's true that some folks like to boast of their self existence, is it really possible for a human being to live completely without relying on others?

Some men seem to want to live way out in the wilderness, and be self sufficient. They can do this to a degree. But they were born to a mother. They derived their life from their parents. Usually, this type of people still have to come to town, once or more per year, to buy their supplies. Even though these types are much more self sufficient than the average person, they still are not completely self sufficient.

If a man chooses to live out in the wilderness somewhere, he needs to eat. His existence will depend on the plant and animal life in the surrounding area. He will not be able to survive without water. His existence depends on certain basic human needs being available.

During World War II, the farmers were better off than those who lived in towns, at least in some localities. The farmers were more self sufficient than the town folks. Even though many things were rationed by the government, those who farmed had food! They still depended on the grocer for sugar, salt, and other basic supplies. Also they needed to buy gas and rubber tires.

God is not only self sufficient (He provides all His own needs), He is self existent! God was not born to anybody. He always existed, and He will always exist! This is too much for our human minds to absorb. But it's the truth about God! "For as the Father hath life in himself; so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself." (John 5:26)

Because of God's self existence, God is also inexhaustible. This is another attribute of God that is totally foreign to the human experience.

Sometimes young children run around so fast and for so long that it almost seems as if they will never run out of energy! But any parent knows that they do become tired! Just ask the father who has to carry his son or daughter from the car into the house and to the bedroom after a long day! Or ask the mother whose children have become cranky from a long day of shopping! Children do become exhausted.

Big people become exhausted, too. Sometimes our energy seems gone. Other times, our patience becomes exhausted, and we become short-tempered. We wear out! When we work at something that we have not done for a while, our muscles soon begin to ache. If we try to work around the clock, our bodies will soon let us know that there is a need for rest. We also grow old. We are very exhaustible creatures!

God is inexhaustible. God never becomes tired, and He never runs out of patience. He always knows exactly how and when to take action. He will never grow old, and His muscles will never ache. God will never grow hard of hearing.

Yet with all this, God is not cold and impersonal. He has chosen to love us, and to care about us, and to provide for our eternal welfare. The writer of Hebrews says, (in reference to Jesus Christ, our great high priest), "For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin. Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." (Hebrews 4:15-16)

After studying just this one aspect of the greatness of God, I find it needful to have a "praise session!" Will you join me?

Brother Robert Lehigh

ESPECIALLY FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

John, the fearless preacher

John the Baptist came on the scene at the end of a dying dispensation. He illustrates and epitomizes the doctrine of spiritual fullness. The prophecies that foretold the outpouring of the Spirit in the Old Testament both focused and operated in the ministry of this servant of God. He proved his faith by his works and claimed the promises of His Creator.

The scriptures show John as an evangelist, a preacher, and a prophet. He was the most picturesque person of his time. He was a country preacher of strange birth. A mountain giant raised in the hills and fed on locusts and wild honey. He was clad with basic leather garments. He hated hypocrisy, but his voice was also a soft love-call, urging sinners to repent. He was God-sent and spirit-filled. His pulpit was the mountain sides of Judea and his auditorium was the valleys and skies of God's creation. His audiences contained publicans, sinners, Pharisees, scribes, Sadducees, soldiers and others. Kings and governors even came to listen to this bold Christian and went away with fear. He was a man of great tenderness, yet with lion-like boldness. He was simple, pungent, convincing, and as powerful as a storm. He was not bashful but was God's prophet of a new day and coming Kingdom.

John was the voice with a strange new message. He brought the message to the dying men of his age. Although his ministry was short, it was meaningful to the world's destiny. He overturned century's old traditions and brought multitudes to the Light of the ages. Ultimately he was to die at the hands of a drunken king to satisfy an outraged, selfish woman.

What was John's commission? He was a God-called soul-winner, who was to make ready a people to receive their Messiah. He was to turn the hearts of the children to their fathers and the fathers to their children. He was to introduce Jesus.

His message was clear. It was cutting yet humble. It was a message that was to decrease so Christ might increase. Yet, John did not let up on the power in which he presented it.

His only fear was God's disapproval. As a result, he painted sin black and hell as deserved. He demanded repentance, heart cleansing and fruit bearing. He proclaimed the need for baptism and preached atonement.

He was great because: A. God called him and he was led by the Holy Spirit. B. He lived a life separated from sin. C. He was unselfish in humility and fearless courage. D. He had a mighty grip on God's vital truths. E. He had a great compassion for the lost people of his day, who caused him to face peril and endure sacrifice to win them to God. F. Finally he yielded to God's leadership and remained faithful until his head was carried to a wicked queen on a charger.

His life was brief, yet he lived all of it in the service of the Lord. Yes, he lived in a remote age, in the hill country of Judea...but he gave a radiant hope to all of the succeeding generations. He introduced Jesus to a ruined world and pointed men to the Lamb of God.

How do we relate to this man in our time? We look at our age as contemporary and advanced...yet the needs of the people remain very similar to those of John's days. We have the same Gospel to communicate and the same power of the mighty, Holy Spirit of God. We can walk in the way of favor and glory just as John did. Will we dare to be the voice crying out the message of truth in our generation?

Brother Len Wertz

BIBLE BAPTISM

Baptism is a very controversial subject among Christians. Christians are FOLLOWERS and BELIEVERS in Jesus Christ.

"BAPTISM" comes from the Greek word "Baptizo" that means: "to DIP", "to PLUNGE", or "to IMMERSE". Webster's Dictionary defines "to dip" as "to immerse briefly", "to plunge" as "to put into a liquid", "to immerse" as "to

baptize by dipping under water".

The Bible in Romans 6:4 refers to baptism as a BURIAL. To bury something is to COVER IT UP. The dictionary defines BAPTISM thus, "The rite of admitting into the Church by dipping (immersing) the individual under water". John 3:23, "And John also was baptizing in Aenon near to Salim, because there was much water there:..."

Certain denominations DO NOT BAPTIZE in any way. They have no claim on salvation, whatsoever. There are other denominations which POUR or SPRINKLE. They have no direct scriptures to support their method. There are no examples in the Bible indicating that the early Church baptized by pouring or sprinkling.

TRINE (three times under the water) IMMERSION is the only method of baptizing of which examples are given in God's Word.

Infant baptism is contrary to God's Word. Mark 16:16, "He that BELIEVETH and is BAPTIZED shall be saved; but he that BELIEVETH NOT shall be DAMNED." Take heed Dear Readers for the above scripture is Jesus' own words. Babies do not have the capacity or understanding to believe, neither do they have a need to repent. The Bible does not mention infant baptism.

Luke 3:3, "And he (John) came into all the country about Jordan, PREACHING THE BAPTISM OF REPENTANCE for the REMISSION OF SINS."

Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, REPENT, and be BAPTIZED every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the REMISSION OF SINS, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

JESUS PREACHED REPENTANCE. Mark 1:15, Jesus' words, (He was preaching) "...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT YE, and BELIEVE THE GOSPEL."

REPENTANCE precedes BAPTISM. "To REPENT" is "to FEEL SORRY FOR SIN". Again, infant baptism is ruled out. A baby can not repent, nor needs to.

Gal. 3:27, "For as many of you as have been BAPTIZED INTO CHRIST have put on Christ." That scripture is self explanatory.

II Cor. 5:17, "Therefore if any man be in Christ, he is a new creature: old things are passed away; behold, all things are become new."

How can one become a new creature? Jesus states in John 3:3, "...Except a man be BORN AGAIN, he cannot see the kingdom of God." John 3:7, Jesus speaking, "...Ye must be born again."

Our physical birth is accompanied by the water surrounding the fetus.

Our spiritual birth is surrounded by water. Col. 2:12a, "Buried with him in baptism,..." When we bury something, it is completely covered over.

To convince the UNBELIEVER regarding TRINE IMMERSION BAPTISM, let us read Eph. 4:5, "ONE LORD, ONE FAITH, ONE BAPTISM." God only has ONE SON, the LORD JESUS. There is only ONE FAITH that will please God and assure us a home in Heaven. That is the faith we have in GOD and CHRIST and in the WORD and ONE baptism.

In summarizing, I wish to refer to a few more scriptures.

In Matt. 28:19, Jesus speaking, "Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, BAPTIZING them in the name of the FATHER, and of the SON, and of the HOLY GHOST." Notice the procedure. To BAPTIZE the only way recorded in God's Word is by three (trine) immersions, one in the name of the Father, one in the name of the Son and one in the name of the Holy Ghost. This is the great commission to be practiced in all nations.

Jesus had no sins to be forgiven, but He was baptized as an EXAMPLE FOR US. Matt. 3:13-17, "Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John, to be BAPTIZED of him. But John forbade him, saying, I have need to be baptized of thee, and comest thou to me? And Jesus answering said unto him, Suffer it to be so now: for thus it becometh us to fulfill all righteousness. Then he suffered him. (John baptized Jesus.) And Jesus, when he was BAPTIZED, went up straightway out of the water: and, lo, the heavens were opened unto him, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, and lighting upon him: And lo a voice from heaven, saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased."

Definitely, Jesus had to be in the water before He could come up out of the water.

All three of the Trinity were represented at this baptism. Jesus was in the water, while the Spirit of God descended as a dove and lit upon Him. The voice of God was heard, saying, "This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased." GOD'S ENDORSEMENT OF JESUS' EXAMPLE OF BIBLE BAPTISM. He did not ask to be poured or sprinkled. He asked to be baptized.

I refer to one more example.

Acts 8:35-39, "Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus." (Philip was an Apostle of Jesus and was very familiar with the subject of baptism, which he was apparently preaching to the eunuch.) "And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder

me to be BAPTIZED? And Philip said, If thou BELIEVEST with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I BELIEVE that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went DOWN BOTH INTO THE WATER, BOTH PHILIP and the EUNUCH; and he BAPTIZED him. And when they were COME UP OUT OF THE WATER, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he (the eunuch) went on his way rejoicing."

How much plainer must it be, before unbelievers will believe? The believer and the one to do the baptizing go DOWN INTO THE WATER. After baptism (burial, immersion) they both come up out of the water.

I conclude this article by giving the warning that Jesus, Himself, gave in John 3:18, "He that BELIEVETH on him is NOT CONDEMNED: but he that BELIEVETH NOT is CONDEMNED already, because HE HATH NOT BELIEVED in the name of the only begotten Son of God."

"Blessed are they that keep His commandments."

Brother Paul R. Myers
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A PERSONAL SALVATION

Romans 3:23-26, "For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God; Being justified freely by his grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus: Whom God hath set forth to be a propitiation through faith in his blood, to declare his righteousness for the remission of sins that are past, through the forbearance of God; To declare, I say, at this time his righteousness: that he might be just, and the justifier of him which believeth in Jesus."

The central theme and the grand declaration of the Holy Scriptures is that Jesus Christ died for sinners. This includes each and every one of us. For the Scripture clearly declares, "For all have sinned and come short of the glory of God." While this truth is recognized by most theologians and church leaders, there is much confusion as to what this actually means. Corporate sin, in place of personal sin, was the cry of the liberal theologians for many years. Sin was defined as acts against humanity in place of evil in our personal life.

We praise God that we have been justified freely by His grace through the redemption that is in Christ Jesus. If it were not for the grace of God not one of us would be able to claim eternal life. We can never be good enough to reach the perfection of a Holy God. That is why we need the redemption that is in Christ Jesus.

This is why Jesus Christ is our propitiation. We like the way the Pictorial Bible Dictionary explains this term. "In other words, the propitiation by the blood of Christ vindicates God's holy character as He justifies the sinner. Without the propitiation, God would be saying, 'Sin may be ignored.' With the propitiation in the blood of Christ, God is saying, 'This is what your sin cost me, and I bore it in my Son, as I justified you.'"

God has declared the righteousness of Jesus Christ for our sins that are past. This does not mean that He did not die for the sins we may commit in our future, but it does mean that these sins are not automatically forgiven without repentance.

This is all through the forbearance of God. To forbear is to refrain or abstain. God withholds His judgment not because we have acquired sinless perfection but because of the substitutionary work of the Lord Jesus Christ.

God's gift of the Lord Jesus Christ declares His righteousness. That He is a just God. He gave man a free will. Man chose to leave the sanctuary of God's love and grace. But God did not leave man without an alternative. God provided salvation from sin by the shedding of innocent blood. This showed how awful sin actually is. When Jesus Christ shed His blood on Calvary's cross this was the last and perfect blood sacrifice needed for our sin.

But all of this is for naught if a person does not believe in Jesus. Jesus Christ died for the sins of the world. But not everyone is automatically saved, as the universalists teach. Neither is a following of a false religion sufficient to provide salvation. I praise God that Jesus Christ died for me! I like the thought that if I were the only person on earth, Christ still would have died for my sin. He died in obedience to the will of the Father. He died to conquer the powers of evil. But He did it all for my salvation.

This means that I have a personal salvation. But it also means that I have a personal responsibility to God.

It becomes difficult to define what Christ died to save us from when we can no longer define "sin." Disrespect for individuals of a different color can be defined as sin. But the sin is not so much the disrespect as the lack of love in the heart. It is well and good to bring to our minds sins against humanity, but what has happened to personal sin? The church may change its mind about what sin is, but God's Holy Word, the Bible, never changes!

We praise God for our personal salvation. Have you experienced this life changing process in your life? Let each of us desire that our life may be a sign that says, Thank you Lord for my salvation! Remember, a one time salvation experience does not guarantee a 'home in Heaven. A

personal salvation demands a personal walk with God each day of our life.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

THY WORD HAVE I HID IN MINE HEART

"Thy word have I hid in mine heart, that I might not sin against thee."
Psalm 119:11.

King David loved the Lord and loved His Word. We cannot love one without the other. Many people say they love God, but are they attracted to His Word? The Bible is beneficial in so many ways. II Timothy 3:16, "All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness." The next verse gives the end result of all these things. "That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works."

A Christian is one who has been freed from the yoke and burden of sin. His feet have been set upon a rock, Christ Jesus. He has been established, one way being through the Word of God.

It is profitable for doctrine: that we may know the ways of God and His people. For reproof: that we may be able to right our wrongs. For instruction in righteousness: that we may show the world the path toward God and God's way of holiness. He says, "be ye holy, for I am holy".

The world does not desire Him. In this day of unlimited education (to the humanist, education is the savior) the whole world has taken on the attitude of the Pharisees. Today there are very few who are like the woman at the well, who longed for a drink of living water. The world needs more examples and more people like Jesus. David said, How I love thy law, it is my meditation all the day". To love the law is to go to it for every need, to fulfill every craving of the heart, to answer every question man can ask.

When tempted by the devil, our Lord used scripture. How can we answer the tempter if we do not know the scriptures? We must be drawn to the Holy Word. We must love it as David did. We must immerse ourselves in its wisdom. Every answer is there: no need for the so-called Christian seminars that try to make it "practical" but do not bring glory to God.

Those who are examples to the flock need to be well traveled in the Word. It must be second nature to them, like breathing. Their example and admonition will serve to help others. This writer can think of many old Brethren, most of whom have gone on, who have been strong in the Word. It must be our strongest influence. We fear that too much attention is being paid to other voices — those on the radio and perhaps even television. There are those who toy with prewritten sermons instead of searching the

Word for themselves, and why, if we love the Word so much, do we leave the work to others?

II Timothy 2:9, "...the word of God is not bound."

II Timothy 2:15, "Study to shew thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth."

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

SIXTY YEARS AGO

November 15, 1934

THANKSGIVING

L. W. Beery

With the approach of another Thanksgiving season we pause with reverential fear before the One in whom "we live, and move, and have our being" and take thought of the unmerited blessings that are ours, for which we should be grateful.

It is at times like this when we give special thought to the matter, that we realize the love and mercy of our God toward the human family. Of all the good things that we enjoy in this life whether temporal or spiritual, there is not one but what our Heavenly Father is the giver of it all. The air which we breathe, the beautiful sunshine, the refreshing showers and the fruits of the earth, all of which are necessary for our existence are supplied by the generous hand of Him who created us. Then too, those spiritual blessings which supply the needs and satisfy the longings of the soul are freely placed within the reach of all, from the greatest even to the least. "Every good gift and every perfect gift is from above, and cometh down from the Father of light, with whom is no variableness, neither shadow of turning." (Jas. 1:17.)

Inasmuch as these good things that we enjoy all come from God above, should we not manifest in some way that we appreciate them? This is no doubt the thought that prompted the Pilgrim Fathers to set aside a certain day in which they would cease their labors and have a season of special giving of thanks. We also have record that these same people tried to show their appreciation of the goodness of God by living soberly, righteously and godly as the scriptures teach. With the passing of time however, it seems it has been the tendency of men, especially of late years, to forget God and His goodness. In keeping with this tendency there has also been a turning away from the instructions intended to govern men in this life, given in the Bible. This tendency among the professed followers of Christ has resulted in disintegration and apostasy to the extent that the

Bible is considered out of date, with the result that it is no longer reverenced as the Word of God.

In view of this, should we not rejoice and give thanks that there is yet a people who, as little children (Luke 18:17), accept the word of the New Testament as a message from heaven (Heb. 1:1-2), and teach it in full? It is true in our day as it was with the faithful followers of Christ of old; we are ridiculed, treated with contempt, persecuted and oppressed. Should we not then, rejoice that we are "counted worthy" to suffer shame for the name of Christ, as they did? (Acts 5:41.)

Again, we should strive to show our appreciation of the blessings of God by following closely the commandments, statutes and ordinances given us in the gospel; ever mindful of the fact that "in the keeping of them there is great reward." (Ps. 19:11.)

We should be thankful for the opportunity of witnessing for the Christ, the Son of the living God; the One who made that supreme sacrifice to redeem us from that awful pit of everlasting destruction.

Inasmuch as we are enjoying all these good things, let us with greater zeal and boldness proclaim and demonstrate the Gospel of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, through which we have received remission of sins, joy, peace and contentment and hope of everlasting life.

In recognition of the goodness of God toward us, may we resolve with one of old "I will praise the name of God with a song, and will magnify Him with thanksgiving." (Ps. 69:30.)

SHEPHERD

Psalm 23:1, "The Lord is my Shepherd; I shall not want.", means we have all we need. The Shepherd of our soul is our leader and guides us through green pastures and by still waters as we journey along. If we follow Him, we have no fear, because we have our trust in the great Shepherd.

A shepherd who is out herding the sheep stays close by so no danger befalls his sheep. When we walk through the valley of the shadow of death we know our Spiritual Shepherd is guiding us to our Heavenly Home. Our Shepherd here on earth is guiding us, but we must be willing to follow, if we wish to receive blessings from Him. We know a good shepherd is trustworthy, honest and dependable. In these five words we find all we need if we are a child of God, because He is our Shepherd and the Lord and Savior of our souls. If we are truly following this Good Shepherd we will not have many heartaches.

Before the range was fenced in, farmers had to hire shepherds for their sheep, so no harm would befall them. We read in the Bible, "All we like

sheep have gone astray; we have turned every one to his own way;..." Jesus tells us in John 10:14, "I am the good shepherd, and know my sheep, and am known of mine." I pray He will always be our Shepherd and lead us safely Home.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NEWS ITEMS

1995 GENERAL CONFERENCE MODESTO, CALIFORNIA

The Fourth District churches have recently counseled and agreed to relocate the 1995 General Conference to the Modesto area. This has been done to significantly reduce the financial impact upon our Brotherhood funds. The Conference is scheduled to be held at a local church and school facility with lodging to be handled in the homes of local members and friends. Because no conflict exists with dates of the new location, the dates for the 1995 Conference can be held at the usual time: June 10-14, 1995.

While this change will require that we all make some adjustments in our customary way of attending the Conference, we believe the facilities selected will compare favorably with the Mission Springs location. For those who will be making flight arrangements in advance, any of the Bay area airports are available, though the Sacramento airport is more accessible. For those who will be traveling by train, the Riverback, California depot is the nearest stop for Modesto. We will be placing additional notices with more detail in future issues of the Monitor.

We thank you in advance for your flexibility in helping us to alleviate the financial impact upon our Brotherhood funds. We look forward to an enjoyable and uplifting 1995 General Conference with each of you.

Elder Rudy Cover

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The Dayton Congregation was privileged to enjoy another revival of spirit-filled messages brought forth by Bro Paul Nell. The seed has been sown and the warning given to those outside the fold. The results will depend on what we choose to do with the Word.

We wish to thank all who attended our meeting and the helping hands that were given. May the Lord bless you richly.

May the Lord richly bless Bro. Paul in his further services for the Lord Jesus Christ.

Sister Lizetta Bittinger, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1994

December 4 - Shipwreck - Acts 27:1-44.

1. Why did the centurian give Paul special treatment?
2. What was God's purpose in the shipwreck?

December 11 - Paul at Malta; He Heals Publius - Acts 28:1-11.

1. What effect did Paul's snakebite have on the islanders?
2. Why did Paul physically heal heathen people?

December 18 - Paul at Rome - Acts 28:12-31.

1. What is the hope of Israel for which Paul was bound?
2. Who is the sect the Jews said is everywhere spoken against?

December 25 - The Birth of Christ - Matt. 2:1-15.

1. How did the wise men know of a King of the Jews?
2. Why did not everyone see the star?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR DECEMBER 1994

December 4 - Redemption - Eph. 1:3-7, Acts 3:12-26, Luke 21:25-28.

1. What is the meaning of Redemption?
2. Will redemption happen more than once?

December 11 - New Life - John 5:24, 15:1-9, I John 1:5-7, 4:4-21.

1. How do we attain the New Life?
2. What are the characteristics of the New Life?

December 18 - Christ's Birth Foretold - Isaiah 9:6, Isaiah 9:1-7.

1. What is the great light to the people who walk in darkness?
2. Where and whom does Christ govern?

December 25 - God's Holy City - Rev. 21:7, Rev. 21:1-27.

1. How can we be overcomers?
2. Why is there no temple in God's Holy City?

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(USPS 054-780)

BIBLE MONITOR

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"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

PEACE ON EARTH, GOOD WILL TO MEN!

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
 Their old familiar carols play,
And mild and sweet the words repeat
 Of peace on earth, good will to men!

I thought how, as the day had come,
 The belfries of all christendom
Had rolled along the unbroken song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Till ringing singing on its way,
 The world revolved from night to day—
A voice, a chime, a chant sublime
 Of peace on earth, good will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
 "There is no peace on earth," I said,
For hate is strong, and mocks the song
 Of peace on earth, good will to men!

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep,
 "God is not dead, nor doth He sleep;
The wrong shall fail, the right prevail,
 With peace on earth, good will to men!"

Henry W. Longfellow

THE CHRISTMAS STORY

Few would be unable to repeat the main facts of the Christmas story, which we have heard since childhood. We know of the visit of the archangel to Mary and the later visit to Joseph. We know about the worldly Emperor, who directed that a census be made of his empire. We know the soon-to-be-delivered Mary accompanied Joseph to their ancestral city, Bethlehem, the city of David. We are ashamed to know that a room could not be found in the village inn, so they had to take lodging in the nearby stable. There, her son, the Son of God, would be born and laid in a manger. The nearby shepherds were startled as the angels announced this great event. The shepherds quickly left their sheep to see and worship the Lamb of God. Later the wise men of the East saw His star in the West and came their long journey to bring Him the presents that belonged to a King. The shepherds represented the common people. Jesus was one of them. The wise men represented the rulers of the world. They acknowledged by their coming that He was a King greater than all the kings of the Earth.

Little children and elderly folks have all heard this story repeated so many times that they can repeat it themselves. Over and over the story is told. Each repetition only sharpens its image in the hearer's mind, so he can tell it to others. Other passages of the Bible can be similarly recounted because of their often repetition.

These stories illustrate one of the premier methods of teaching, repetition. A story repeated becomes a habit. A habit is formed by doing a strange act over and over for a period of time until it becomes an automatic reflex. Once a habit is formed, thought is not required to repeat it at the

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appropriate time. A story heard over and over likewise becomes a habit. The story becomes a part of that person's knowledge.

Much of the teaching during babyhood is done by repetition. A baby learns to speak the language of his family through the repetition of certain sounds and the repeated ignoring of other sounds. A baby is encouraged to say his name over and over until eventually he identifies that name with himself. Although he is born with the potential of making every sound that is found in all of the world's languages, he becomes a speaker of his family's language because those sounds are acceptable to those who care for him.

As the children of God, brought into His Family through the rebirth wrought by Jesus Christ, we also, as babes, learn by repetition. We need to hear the "old, old story" many times. It should become a part of us just as our name or our language became a part of us, naturally. Much of the teaching in the New Testament is repetition. These teachings are so needful for us that God has repeated them through the mouths and hands of various writers.

The Athenians were noted for their desire to constantly hear new things. They were always seeking for that which was novel. Part of their problem was that all these new things did not meet their deepest Spiritual needs. So they kept looking for something new that might ease their minds. They were so unsure of themselves and their collection of gods and philosophies that they erected an altar to an unknown god, just in case they had missed giving homage to some god that they had failed to identify. Paul preached to them about that Unknown God. He was unknown to them but very well known to those who worshipped Him as the True God of Heaven.

Many today are like the Athenians, they are constantly seeking some new doctrine or lifestyle. They are not satisfied with the teachings of the New Testament. They want to find some other way to approach God. They profess to have new revelations or in some way seek to alter the Word of God. The children of Israel during their desert journey tried at various times to supplant the leadership of Moses and to establish some other pattern of life. They were dealt with quite harshly by God. Now that we have the advantage of knowing about Jesus and His Ministry, how much more reproachable for us to deviate from what He has delivered to us. As the Cornerstone and foundation of our faith and lifestyle, Jesus and the Apostles, have given us what we need.

These lessons need to be repeated over and over. We do not need blind, rote repetition, that becomes ritual and superstition. We need to hear the "old, old story of Jesus and His love" and of the doctrines and commandments that have been delivered to us for our benefit and His Glory.

How did you learn your mother language? How did you learn the Christmas story? How did you learn of the substitutionary death, burial and resurrection of Jesus Christ? How did you learn of the rites and ordinances of the Church? Most of these things you learned through repetition.

Having benefited by this repetition, can you repeat the message of God's love to other people. When a young child learns to talk, he will talk incessantly, repeating what he has learned. Are you as apt to repeat what you have learned of Eternal things?

MCC

OUR CHRISTMAS SONG

(To the tune of Jolly Old St. Nicholas)

Father up in Heaven, please
Listen to my prayer;
Now that Christmas time is here,
Joy is everywhere;

Thank You for the Gift You gave:
Jesus Christ Your Son;
What a wondrous way to show
Love to everyone!

Some kids think that Christmas means
Lots of shiny toys,
Left by Santa Clause for all
Good little girls and boys;

I don't believe in Santa Claus,
I'll tell You what is true:
I've not been good for Santa Claus;
I've been good for YOU!

Oh, thank you for the Gift You gave:
Jesus Christ Your Son,
What a wondrous way to show
Love to everyone!

Julie, Andrea and Jenny Litfin

GOD WITH US

Howard J. Surbey

"But while he (Joseph) thought on these things, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared unto him in a dream, saying, Joseph, thou son of David, fear not to take unto thee Mary thy wife: for that which is conceived in her is of the Holy Ghost. And she shall bring forth a son, and thou shalt call his name JESUS: for he shall save his people from their sins. Now all this was done, that it might be fulfilled which was spoken of the Lord by the prophet, saying, Behold, a virgin shall be with child, and shall bring forth a son, and they shall call his name Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us." Matt. 1:20-23. "Therefore the Lord himself shall give you a sign; Behold, a virgin shall conceive, and bear a son, and shall call his name Immanuel." Isa. 7:14. In both the prophecy in the Old Testament and the fulfillment in the New Testament the Hebrew word "Immanuel" is used, which means "God with us."

In the Old Testament we might give a number of references which refer to God sending His beloved Son upon the earth: to teach man, to direct man as a king, to lead man to God, to redeem His people, to set up an everlasting kingdom, and so forth. In fact the plan of the entire Old Testament is to call out and prepare a people to serve God and accept their Redeemer. "But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting." Micah 5:2. Jesus Christ was no new being as the prophet tells us. He has been from of old, yes "from everlasting." Christ told the disciples in John 16:28, "I come forth from the Father, and am come into the world: again, I leave the world, and go to the Father." Unless we believe in the divinity of Christ, the everlasting part; that He was with God, came unto the world and went back to God, we might just as well throw away the entire Bible because then it is just a story and no more true than any other book which we might take from the shelf.

"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, (and we beheld his glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father,) full of grace and truth." John 1:14. "Let this mind be in you, which was also in Christ Jesus: Who, being in the form of God, thought it not robbery to be equal with God: But made himself of no reputation, and took upon him the form of a servant, and was made in the likeness of men: And being found in fashion as a man, he humbled himself, and became obedient unto death, even the death of the cross." Phil. 2:5-8. Christ took on the form of our flesh, that He might be with us and teach us God's divine plan of salvation, and finally shed His blood that we might be redeemed from sin and brought back into

fellowship with Almighty God.

Such un-natural chain of events could only take place through Divine direction. Luke 2, traces Christ's genealogy back to Adam and to God. Matthew 1, traces Christ's genealogy through the royal lineage back to King David and Abraham, through which lineage He was promised throughout the Old Testament. This un-natural chain of events was divinely protected through the espousel of Mary to Joseph and the sacredness of their marriage. Through their Divine guidance they were able to protect the Child, against His many enemies and raise Him up to fulfill every prophecy from the Creation. These many supernatural events prove without a doubt, that He was Divine and that none other could have fulfilled all the prophecies concerning His birth.

The fact of the virgin birth is carefully safeguarded by the wording of both records, in Matthew and in Luke. The Jewish espousal was a solemn engagement before witnesses. The clause "before they came together" definitely states that the uniting in the home had not taken place. While pondering what to do under the terrible circumstances, Joseph is visited by "the angel of the Lord" who explained the circumstances so as to easily solve Joseph's problems, and also show that this was the fulfilling of prophecies, which no doubt Joseph had been taught many times. The mystery of the incarnation is easily understood through the power of the Holy Ghost, not corruptible seed but incorruptible. Mary had rejoiced at being able to serve her Creator, "from henceforth all generations shall call her blessed," not to her honor but that they would realize the power of God's plan of salvation. When Anna, the prophetess saw Him she "spake of him to all them that looked for redemption in Jerusalem." Those who look for redemption today, will be willing to speak of Him and to serve Him to the best of their ability.

"For in him we live, and move, and have our being; as certain also of your own poets have said, For we are also his offspring." Acts 17:28. Is Christ that near "God with us" that in Him we live, and move, and have our being? If not who is a fault? Might we sum up God's coming unto us through His only-begotten Son, by a verse which gives us an outline of the Divine plan of salvation, "And without controversy great is the mystery of godliness: God was manifest in the flesh, justified in the Spirit, seen of angels, preached unto the Gentiles, believed on in the world, received up into glory." I Tim. 3:16.

Selected from December 15, 1962
issue of the Bible Monitor

LITTLE THINGS

In studying the Bible, I come to a very familiar scripture as recorded in Galatians 5:9, "A LITTLE leaven leaveneth the whole lump."

The dictionary defines leaven thus; "A substance such as yeast that makes dough rise, to spread through, causing gradual change. It takes just a LITTLE bit, compared to the MASS it changes. Leaven can work two ways — Beneficially or detrimentally.

For some reason I was intrigued by the word LITTLE. The dictionary defines LITTLE as; "Small in size, amount and degree; short in duration, brief, small in power and importance."

In studying the subject it is very evident that God and Christ recognize LITTLE things. We do not need to perform great acts of heroism, or be a big name in industry or bequeath millions to research.

Notice some of the LITTLE things mentioned in God's Word. Proverbs 25:11, "A WORD fitly spoken is like apples of gold in pictures of silver." Gold and silver have great worth. There is worth in one LITTLE WORD, if spoken fitly, (at the proper time). "Please," "thanks," "pardon me," "forgive me," and so forth are a few examples.

Mark 9:41, "For whosoever shall give you a CUP OF WATER to drink in my name, because ye belong to Christ, verily I say unto you, he shall not lose his reward." A CUP OF WATER is LITTLE, but if we do it, not in our name, but in Jesus' name, we will be rewarded. These are Jesus' own words. The LITTLE things we do in the right spirit return to us manifold blessings, not just a few.

Proverbs 16:8, "Better is a LITTLE with righteousness than great revenues without right." An honestly earned one hundred dollars is worth more to a Christian than a dishonestly earned one thousand dollars is to an individual of this world.

James 3:5a, "Even so the tongue is a LITTLE member, and boasteth great things." Controlled, the tongue can do much good, uncontrolled, much damage.

James 3:5b, "Behold, how great a matter a LITTLE fire kindleth!" A lighted, upset lantern, a small, LITTLE fire, was blamed for a disastrous fire that destroyed a large portion of Chicago.

I Kings 17:8-16. Read it. It is too long to quote. The lesson is a good example for my subject. Elijah was commanded to go to Zarephath. The Lord made arrangements with a widow woman to sustain him. Elijah met the woman getting sticks for fuel. He asked for water and a morsel of bread. She told him she had only a handful of meal and a little oil. She said she would prepare it (all of it) for her and her son, and then die.

Elijah told her to do that, but make me a LITTLE cake FIRST. She did

as Elijah requested. He and her family ate for many days. She certainly showed faith and benevolence. As a result that LITTLE bit of meal and LITTLE bit of oil never became exhausted. God still blesses LITTLE things we do, if we do them according to His Will.

Psalm 37:16, "A LITTLE that a righteous man hath is better than the riches of many wicked."

Mark 12:42-43. Jesus saw how the rich cast in much money into the treasury. He also saw a poor widow woman cast in two mites, which makes a farthing, a very LITTLE amount, equivalent to less than one cent. Jesus said, "...That this poor widow hath cast more in, than all they which have cast into the treasury." Mark 12:44 Jesus speaking, "For all they did cast in of their ABUNDANCE; but she of her WANT did cast in all that she had, even ALL HER LIVING." Her LITTLE donation Jesus recognized as the GREATEST.

Matthew 14:15-21. Read it. Jesus fed five thousand men, besides women and children, starting with as LITTLE as five loaves and two fishes. Jesus blessed the loaves and fishes. He gave them to the disciples, who in turn gave to the multitude. The multitude ate till they were full. Then they gathered twelve baskets of food remaining. LITTLE to MUCH is assured when it is accompanied by God's Blessing.

I wish to use one more scripture to compare LITTLE things in the natural world and their influence with those in the Spiritual.

James 3:4, "Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small (LITTLE) helm, whithersoever the governor listeth." A LITTLE helm controls BIG ships.

My closing thought is this. God and Christ notice everything including the hairs on our head, the tiny mustard seeds and so forth, even when we can not pray clearly, maybe only groan He understands for what we are praying.

Do not neglect doing for Christ and the Church. You will be rewarded for every bit you do, whether it is LITTLE or big. Do not underestimate God and Christ's ability to bless the LITTLE things.

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MANY THANKSGIVINGS UNTO GOD

II Corinthians 9:11-12, "Being enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God. For the

administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints, but is abundant also by many thanksgivings unto God."

(selected portions of Psalm 111)

"Praise ye the Lord. I will praise the Lord with my whole heart, in the assembly of the upright, and in the congregation."

One of the primary reasons for gathering for public worship should be to recognize that we have been enriched in every thing to all bountifulness, which causeth through us thanksgiving to God.

"The works of the Lord are great, sought out of all them that have pleasures therein. His work is honourable and glorious: and his righteousness endureth forever."

Surely the works of the Lord are great and we praise Him for this. We praise Him for being the Creator God. We give thanks for the gift of life itself. We give thanks for the many physical blessings of life. And God expects us to share these blessings with others. When the Apostle Paul says, "For the administration of this service not only supplieth the want of the saints," he is not referring to the false teaching that God will give you anything that you ask for. Rather he is referring to the truth of verse 7 of II Corinthians 9. "Every man according as he proposeth in his heart, so let him give; not grudgingly, or of necessity: for God loveth a cheerful giver."

"...the Lord is gracious and full of compassion."

In the previous verse we read that "his righteousness endureth for ever." We can not ignore the righteousness of God. His righteousness will not allow God to overlook sin. But we thank God that He is gracious and full of compassion. In Ezekiel 18:32 we find that God says, "For I have no pleasure in the death of him that dieth, saith the LORD GOD: wherefore turn yourselves, and live ye."

"He hath given meat unto them that fear him:..."

We thank God that He supplies all the needs of His children. He has supplied physical meat (food) for those who fear Him but He also will supply spiritual meat to supply our every need.

"The works of his hands are verity and judgment; all his commandments are sure. They stand fast for ever and ever, and are done in truth and uprightness."

The word "verity" means truth. We thank God for THE TRUTH found in the person of Jesus Christ. We thank God that His judgment is holy and righteous judgment. We praise and thank the Lord that His commandments are sure. We thank God that we do not have to guess at what God expects from us but that He has revealed it in His Holy Word.

"He sent redemption unto his people: he hath commanded his covenant for ever: holy and reverend is his name."

Most of all, we thank God that He sent His redemption to His people. The Lord Jesus Christ, the only begotten Son of God, has come to earth to die on the cross of Calvary. There He shed His precious blood for you and me. From the beginning there was a need for a blood sacrifice for sin. Innocent animals were first sacrificed, showing the reality of the awfulness of sin. We do not know for certain why God chose to wait until the New Testament era to send Jesus Christ, but we can be sure that we worship an all wise God who does everything in truth and uprightness.

Yes, our thanks and praise belong to God for holy and reverend is His name. We can never expect to be as holy as God but our lives should be a THANK YOU life that reveals that we have been with the Lord. We steal the glory from God when we give the title "reverend" to a man.

"...a good understanding have all they that do his commandments: his praise endureth forever."

It is well and good to thank and praise God with our lips. But if our walk does not correspond with our talk we praise Him in vain.

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SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 1, 1934
PRAYING IN THE SPIRIT
Ella Webster

We have seen our dependence upon the Holy Spirit in prayer. This comes very definitely in (Eph. 6:18) "Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit,..." And in Jude 20, "...praying in the Holy Ghost." Indeed the whole secret of prayer is found in these three words "in the Spirit." If we are in doubt about it we must first of all consult the Bible about it.

The scriptures plainly declare God's will about stealing. The Bible it is true, does not always give a rule for every particular course of action and in many cases we read and must expect guidance in other ways. But the scriptures are far more explicit even about details, than most people think, and there are not many important affairs in life for which a clear direction may not be found in God's Book.

For example: The matter of dress (I Peter 3:3-4, I Tim. 2:9), the matter of conversation, we have Eph. 4:29-32. The matter of avenging injuries and standing up for our rights, (Rom 12:19-21; Matt. 5:38-48; I Peter 2:19-21.) And forgiving one another (Eph 4:32; Mark 11:25-29). Conformity to

the world (Rom. 12:2; I John 2:15-17, James 4:4). Matters of anxiety of every kind (Matt. 6:25-34; Phil. 4:6-7).

This shows how very full and practical the Bible guidance is. We need ask God to guide us by the power of His Holy Spirit through the scriptures.

No guidance of the Holy Spirit will be contrary to the scriptures. His words are Spirit and they are life. There are four ways in which He reveals His will to us, through the scriptures, through providential circumstances, through the convictions of our own higher judgment, and through the inward impressions of the Holy Spirit on our minds.

His Spirit will lead us in all truth. The child of God that is taking the close walk with God can detect the Spirit that comes as an angel of light and like Jesus we can say "Get thee behind me Satan."

The same Spirit that anointed Christ Jesus for service is at our disposal. Just why many of our preachers do not use "the Holy Spirit" for their subject in their sermons we can not tell. There was a time in the early time of the Christian church when it was asked, "Have ye received the Holy Ghost since ye believed?" And they said we have not heard whether there be any Holy Ghost.

If a "leading" is of God the way will always open for it. (John 10:4), "And when he putteth forth his own sheep, he goeth before them, and the sheep follow him: for they know his voice."

It is a matter of indifference to us what the majority of people we meet do, or how they spend their time, but as soon as we begin to love anyone, we begin at once to care. God's laws therefore is only another name for God's love and the more minutely that love descends into the details of our lives the more sure we are made of the depth and reality of the love.

We can never know the full joy and privileges of the life hid with Christ in God until we have learned the lesson of a daily and hourly guidance. "God will work in us to will as well as to do His good pleasure."

Like where the Jewish high priest went to receive revelations from God, we too must be shut in with God, where there is security, silence, solitude and separation; not so much where we pour our hearts out to God as a place where He pours His Spirit into us.

Someone has said that the closet is the Christian's dry dock into which he goes for repairs after he has been buffeted by the storms, beaten on the rocks and water-logged by the drenching billows, where he can be pumped out and polished off and have all his damages repaired.

How plainly and with comforting words our Lord comforted His disciples before His departure by saying He would send them a Comforter, the Holy Spirit, that would guide them in all truth. It is possible that God's children can live the victorious life, and by obedience to His word we do live that life.

Praise His sweet name for that wonderful provision through our Lord Jesus Christ.

WITH LOVING KINDNESS HAVE I DRAWN THEE

Jeremiah 31:3

There is much we can say about the goodness of God. We would like to give the loving kindness of God four aspects, each of which are particularly powerful. First, it is UNDESERVED. Undeserved kindness is very attractive and very powerful, that is, when its recipient has no claim upon the giver and when that bestowed is entirely pure favor. What right to wages has a servant who has run away from his master? What right to the protection of the king has a subject who has become a rebel and a traitor? By sin we have forfeited every favor by God, and rendered ourselves unworthy of the least of all His mercies. It is therefore of the Lord's mercies that we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not.

Secondly, it is DISINTERESTED kindness. This is very attractive and powerful when it tends to the advantage of the person receiving it and not to the profit of the giver. A perception of selfishness in the exercise of benevolence will destroy all its influence. There is very little benevolence that will bear examination. Men are always looking toward their own reputation or honor, but what could God look for from us? "Can a man," said Elihu, "be profitable unto God?" "Our goodness," said David, "extendeth not to thee." God is exalted above all blessing and praise, and as He was happy without the fallen angels, so He would have been happy without us.

Thirdly, it is a NOBLE kindness and therefore exceedingly attractive. If a man had the power of life and death over his enemy, and he could save his life and restore his liberty and bestow riches upon him, this would indeed be noble; and what would we think of the wretch who would not be drawn by it to love and praise his deliverer and benefactor? The scriptures say that the soul that sinneth, it shall die. We were under the law and under the curse. We were entirely under its power. Yet while we were waiting for condemnation, He stretched out His sceptre and said, "Touch and live." "I will be merciful to their unrighteousness, and their sins and their iniquities will I remember no more." Hard is the heart that does not feel this.

Fourthly, it is a COSTLY and EXPENSIVE kindness. How attractive and powerful this is. Zeleucus in order to save one of his son's eyes, consented to lose one of his own. What should we think of that son who could ever view a father so devoted to him without emotions of attachment?

But, please observe that this was for a child. When King Edward III took Calais, he consented to spare the place on condition that six of the principal citizens surrendered themselves to execution, and he would have done so if not for his queen, who threw herself at his feet, implored him, and saved the lives of the noble victims who had offered themselves for their fellow citizens, their loved ones, their children. There cannot, however, be produced in an instant in which a man has sacrificed himself knowingly for his adversary. This remains to be displayed. No, it does not - it WAS displayed on CALVARY. God commendeth His love toward us, in that while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us. Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friend; but while we were enemy's we were reconciled to God by the death of His son.

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OUR SATURDAY NIGHT

J. H. Moore PARENTS' MISTAKES

It is an ill wind that blows no good, and, by the way, there are many ill winds, but it is a question as to whether the good that follows these winds will ever atone for the ills. On seeing the mistakes of his father or mother many a child has resolved to live a better life than that set forth in the examples left him to imitate.

A father who loved his children well enough to provide for them all needed comforts came to the conclusion that his son should not spend much of his time reading. He was fearful that reading might lead the boy into indolent habits, and cause him to think more about his book than of his work. His highest idea of a boy was that he should be good and do plenty of work. The boy worked well, but he also loved books. He found them full of most excellent things to think and talk about. In fact he would work hard to get money to buy books, and then spent his evenings at home reading. This son did not like his father's idea of a boy, but he knew that it was his duty to obey, as far as possible, his earthly parent.

He, however resolved in his own mind that should he ever become a father he would not attempt to raise a boy in that way. He felt that boys were boys, and he hoped that the time would never come when he would forget that he, too, had been a boy. He thought it would be so nice if his father would talk with him about what he was reading. He longed to tell some one the interesting things he found in books. It would be such a pleasure to tell his parents all about them, but he had no encouragement in

that direction, and so kept the information gained largely to himself. Still, while loving his parents, he fully made up his mind to encourage the boys who loved to read good books. The mistake of his father prompted him to carry out his resolve more faithfully than he probably otherwise would have done. It is a case of some good from an ill wind.

Another ill wind blew into the brain of a little girl a determination that she faithfully carried out when she reached the mature years of womanhood. Her mother was one of these faithful, hard working women, but never thought of the consequences of sending her timid little daughter off to bed in a dark and uninviting room. The frightened little maiden would disrobe, jump into bed, thinking there might be something underneath, and crawl under the cover, head and all. Thus breathing the close air under the covers, she fell asleep. The child never grew brave, for she had no one to teach her how to retire, with no fear in the heart, but trusting the Lord.

But the little girl, on reaching the years of womanhood, never made that mistake with her own little girls. It was her delight to make the going to bed as pleasant as possible for those who called her mother. She early taught them to prepare for retirement, for she thought the training would be for their good. She would then light them to bed, see that they were properly covered, kiss them good night, and leave them smiling. They fell asleep with no unpleasant thoughts in their minds, and their dreams were sweet. These girls grew to womanhood without the thought of fear. They had a mother who knew that to send a child to bed with its mind filled with ill thoughts is a grave mistake. She made child life a study, and knew the importance of treating the little ones according to their nature and make-up.

COMING TO JESUS

I wonder when a soul comes to Jesus, are we rejoicing with them? We read in God's Holy Word that one soul is worth more than all the world. Do we really believe it? Jesus loves these souls, because He died on the cross to save souls.

Now, you belong to Jesus Christ, your body, soul and spirit. If you live for Him, that relationship will last for eternity.

Once we were lost in sin, but Jesus made a way we could be redeemed. He lifted us out of the miry clay and put our feet on the Solid Rock. He shed His precious blood, so we could be redeemed. Jesus has told us that Heaven and earth shall pass away, but His words shall not pass away. The things we have here in our natural life will soon fade away.

Let us be strong in the Lord, praying each day for help from on High. He will bless us if we are true to Him. When we accepted Jesus as our Savior our burdens rolled away. Jesus will guide, if we ask Him for help, not just

for today, but every day. If we call upon Jesus, He will help us and no temptations will befall us. Remember, all the blessings we receive come from Christ's bountiful hand. He will help us to stay on the strait and narrow way. Oh, the joy we receive as we become a child of God.

Now, are we going to let others do the work Christ expects us to do? Let us go out in the harvest and win souls for Christ. The beloved Church needs helpers to gather in the harvest. There are many souls who would come to Christ if someone loved them enough to speak to them about their lost condition. Are we willing to pick up the work or are we leaving it to others? Are we willing to take up the cross and win souls for Him? Are we willing to go into service whether the job is big or small?

Oh, how wonderful, it would be if we could be here when Christ comes for His Bride. There will be no more tears, no more sickness, no more sad farewells.

Remember, dear ones, now is the time, probably you will never have another chance to accept Christ. When Christ calls you dare not turn Him away. Give Him your whole heart and get up and start working for Him. Think of our loved ones over there waiting for us. We will meet them if our feet are on the Solid Rock. Christ never changes, He is the same yesterday, today and forever.

Remember we are the world's Bible. We must as the children of Christ watch our every move so the people who are not in the Church can be a pattern for them to follow. Let us do all we can, so the Dear Lord receives the honor and praise. Worldly people then can see we are serving the Lord and by our influence they too will want to follow in our footsteps and be able at the end to have a Home in Heaven above.

Sister E. M. Alltus

NEWS ITEM

THANK YOU

I want to thank all the Brethren and Sisters for the beautiful cards and letters for my ninety second birthday.

I appreciate every one and I can only say thank you and may God bless you all.

Sister Clara Gunderman

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All contributions to the various Boards should be made out to the Treasury, but sent to the Secretary for his records.

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BIBLE MONITOR

VOL. LXXII

DECEMBER 15, 1994

NO. 24

"For the faith once delivered unto the saints"

OUR MOTTO: Spiritual in life and
Scriptural in practice.

OUR WATCHWORD: Go into all
the world and preach the gospel.

OUR AIM: Be it our aim to be more sanctified, more righteous,
more holy, and more perfect through faith and obedience.

NEW YEAR

Come, let us anew our journey pursue—
 Roll round with the year,
And never stand still till the Master appear;
 His adorable will let us gladly fulfill,
 And our talents improve
By the patience of hope, and the labors of love.

Our life is a dream; our time, as a stream,
 Glides swiftly away,
And the fugitive moment refuses to stay;
 The arrow is flown; the moment is gone;
 The millennial year
Rushes on to our view—and eternity's near.

O that each in the day of his coming may say:
 I have fought my way through;
I have finished the work thou didst give me to do.
O that each from his Lord may hear the glad word:
 "Well and faithfully done;
Enter into my joy, and sit down on my throne."
-Charles Wesley

A BLUNT EDGE

"If the iron be blunt, and he do not whet the edge, then must he put to more strength: but wisdom is profitable to direct." Ecclesiastes 10:10.

The wise man, Solomon, made a thorough research into the various philosophies and lifestyles available to him. He looked into each way and after a trial, he came to the conclusion that these were not the ways that would please God nor lead to a life that would be satisfying and productive. These philosophies may have different names but they are still with us today. There are ever so many ways to indulge ourselves. There are as many ways to not serve God as there are people. Each person comes up with some way to keep from doing God's will, until after he is born again.

Solomon was continually looking for the way of wisdom. In looking for wisdom he often demonstrated the folly of foolishness. There is much that passes for wisdom that turns out to be foolishness. Speaking of the hewer of wood, he shows a man who foolishly supposes that to accomplish much he must get right to work with his dull ax. Rather than taking the time required to sharpen the edge, he would begin to chop. Perhaps in the first fury of blows he would be productive. His unleashed strength would drive the edge through the wood, but after a little while he would accomplish less and less. The chopping would go slower and slower. He had been foolish to not take the time to sharpen the edge of his ax. If he had invested the time required, he could have been more productive when he did begin to chop. He would have chopped more wood using less strength. He would have been less tired even though he would have accomplished more.

THE BIBLE MONITOR

DECEMBER 15, 1994

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This need for a sharp instrument is not only necessary in chopping wood. It is necessary in most endeavors in life to make proper preparations. When we fail to properly prepare we pay a price in decreased productivity. For many occupations and professions a great deal of schooling is necessary. To become a master of any work, there is a need for instruction and experience. We must be sharpened intellectually and physically to do a task well.

A Spiritual task also demands preparation. The preparation may not be as intellectual and physical as the other tasks in life. Spiritual preparation is needed for a Spiritual task.

The natural and the Spiritual do not mix and do not understand each other. The natural man does not and can not understand Spiritual things. To him, they are foolishness. The talk of God, Jesus Christ, the Holy Spirit, salvation, separation, justification, angels, eternal life, are all foolishness to the one who only understands the natural things of life. He understands the reaction a man has to events around him. He knows how to be angry and to desire and to lust. To him the things of this natural world are more important than the things that lead to eternal life.

Spiritual tasks demand the direction of the Holy Spirit. Without the Holy Spirit, Spiritual affairs are incomprehensible to the natural man. The only way the Spirit will be present to make the Spiritual known to a man is through the conversion experience. Unless a person becomes a child of God, he will not have the Holy Spirit within. With the Holy Spirit dwelling within his soul, he will have guidance and instruction. Without the Holy Spirit, even the Bible is foolishness to the natural man. He can not understand it nor why believers would pay so much attention to it. After the Holy Spirit indwells a person the Bible is opened up to that person's understanding. He can understand its Spiritual implications. It is no longer a book of ancient stories, fantastic miracles and beautiful language. It is now the Word of God that speaks to the heart, soul and mind of a man who has the Holy Spirit within. A Spiritual man will heed the Word of God, because he recognizes that the message written within those pages was inspired by the same Holy Spirit who resides within his soul.

Having the Holy Spirit within is for the Christian comparable to the hewer of wood who has sharpened his ax. He will be productive in his service for God. Without the Holy Spirit, his efforts are only a show and a vanity. There is no value in a natural man's effort to produce Spiritual work.

You would not chop wood with a dull ax, neither should you try to please God without first being empowered by Him through His Holy Spirit.

How productive is your wood chopping? How productive is your

Spiritual life? Entering this new year, do you have your ax sharpened? Do you have the Holy Spirit within? Are you willing to be directed into productive service for God?

MCC

"COME OVER INTO KENYA AND HELP US"

Dear Brethren and Sisters and Friends,

The "Macedonian" call rang strongly in my ears and pierced my heart at the 1994 General Conference when we heard the plea to come over into Kenya and help us. While meditating and praying about this calling, I mentioned it to my companion. "How would you like to go to Africa?" Her first response was "No." With a mother's love for her children and grandchildren she said, "I don't think I could do it. After all, six weeks is a long time to be away from the grandchildren."

A few days passed at Conference till near the close of General Conference our chorister lead us in song, "Where He Leads I'll Follow." This touched my heart and with tears trickling down my cheeks I said, "Lord why not? I have no excuse, make me a mighty instrument in your hands. I'll go."

A few hours later a member of the Mission Board approached me and said, "Bro. Paul, we are looking for someone to go to Africa for us. Would you go?" By now it seemed very evident that it was the call of the Lord.

On Wednesday evening before leaving the General Conference grounds, Mary and I met with the General Mission Board members. By now, Mary had submitted and was one hundred percent behind the call. All the Board members expressed their confidence in us to represent the Dunkard Brethren Church to Kenya, Africa and assuring us their support in prayer. After a wonderful season of prayer with the Board we consented to go to Kenya to spread the good news of Salvation and to see what can be accomplished there.

As time draws near we are anxiously looking forward to the great task which is before us. Pray for us that God will use us in such a way that the gospel might be given and accepted by those people in Kenya. Our desire is that the Good News of Salvation will be accepted.

We did do some corresponding with them and they assured us that they are anxiously looking forward to us coming. They are planning a very busy schedule for us. We expect to live with them in their homes, eat their food, and win their hearts.

The Lord willing, we will be leaving January 9 and returning February 22.

Again, please remember us in prayer. There is power in prayer.

We are depending on you.

Our Kenya address will be:

c/o Theresa Okello
P.O. Box 62542
Nairobi, Kenya, Africa
In Christian love,
Brother Paul and Sister Mary Stump

THIS CRIMINAL WORLD

The power of Satan is very evident in our time. And it is not going to get any better on this earth.

The Apostle Paul writes in II Tim. 3:13, "But EVIL MEN and SEDUCERS shall WAX WORSE and WORSE, DECEIVING, and being DECEIVED."

"SEDUCERS" are those who tempt others into doing wrong. They entice others into sexual misbehavior.

"WAX" is defined as, "to increase in strength and power".

The news media brings to our attention, almost daily, the most hideous crimes and violence and immorality imaginable. It behooves every professed Christian to be on guard against the adversary of their souls.

The following are just a sample of what I am referring to.

Millions of babies are killed in their mothers' wombs, by abortion. Over our Christian America, so called, are many people afraid to leave their homes and go away at night because of violence. People traveling freeways, minding their own business, are shot at by unscrupulous men. Schools report students who are peddling dope, carrying guns and switchblades. The government must provide shelter for battered women. In addition, the media carries many instances of robberies, stabbings, sodomy, rape, murders and so forth.

Some of the larger city schools have police patrol the hallways. Some of these same schools, like most airports, use metal detectors, attempting to provide safety to those using these facilities. THINK about the condition our world is in at the present time.

A drunken father beat his eight year old son so badly that the boy could not sit down in school. Doctors and school teachers are to report such incidences. The teacher did and the father was jailed. Very few children report abusement.

The age we are living in can rightly be called the CRIMINAL AGE.

Referring to the time of Noah, we read in Gen. 6:11-12, "The earth also was corrupt before God, and the earth was filled with violence. And God looked upon the earth, and behold, it was corrupt; for all flesh had corrupted his way upon the earth." Are we in THE DAY OF NOAH?

Gen. 6:5, "And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually." It repented the Creator that He had made man.

What remedy is available today?

Even though God was disappointed in man, because of man's sins and disobedience, He provided a means whereby man could be redeemed.

John 3:16, "For God SO LOVED THE WORLD, that he gave HIS ONLY BEGOTTEN SON, that whosoever BELIEVETH in him should not PERISH, but have EVERLASTING LIFE."

God made a great sacrifice in giving His only Son, Jesus.

Jesus made a great sacrifice when He gave His life on the Cross.

The God-head has provided the remedy for the forgiveness of sins. It becomes each individual's decision whether they want to be affiliated with this criminal world or affiliated with true believers whose rewards will be Eternal Life.

The Bible has the remedy for two different types of people. Those who never accepted Jesus as their personal Saviour and those who did accept, but failed to continue to follow and obey, as they promised God and witnesses in the baptismal stream.

Continuing discussion about the second group, we read in the Old Testament in II Chron. 7:14, "IF MY PEOPLE, WHICH ARE CALLED BY MY NAME, shall HUMBLE themselves, and PRAY, and SEEK my face, and TURN from their wicked ways; then will I hear from heaven, and will FORGIVE their sin, and will heal their land." Also, in the New Testament, in I John 1:9, "IF WE CONFESS our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness." In both promises "if" is the first word. IF we do our part to be forgiven, God will do His part.

Much time, labor and prayers have been exerted on behalf of those who are on the outside of the fold of safety.

Sin started in the Garden of Eden. Christ died on the cross, that through His shed blood, we might be pardoned. Prior to that time Christ preached repentance. Mark 1:15, Jesus saying, "...The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God is at hand: REPENT ye, and believe the gospel." Luke 5:32, Jesus speaking, "I came not to call the righteous, but sinners to repentance." Luke 13:3, Jesus speaking, "I tell you, Nay: but, except ye repent, ye shall all likewise perish."

John preached repentance. Matt. 3:2, "...Repent ye: for the kingdom of heaven is at hand." Also, in Luke 3:3, "And he came into all the country about Jordan, preaching the baptism of repentance for the remission of sins."

The twelve disciples sent out by Jesus preached repentance. Mark 6:12, "And they went out, and preached that men should repent."

Acts 2:38, "Then Peter said unto them, Repent, and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost."

Repent means, sorrow and regret for doing wrong, to the extent that it will cause change in an individual. He will desist from wrong doing, and will sorrow enough that he will follow through by being baptized. This will NOT BE THE CAUSE OF, but FOR THE REMISSION of sins.

The question comes to mind, why, with so many churches over the land, is there so much sinning today; as referred to in the beginning of the article? There are a number of reasons. Today most churches have a paid pastor. To retain his pastorate, he has to preach to please his congregation. This often causes the pastor to dilute and water down his sermon to hold his job.

I personally know of a pastor who announced to his congregation that for some time he would be preaching on the book of John. He preached going through the first twelve chapters. When he came to the thirteenth chapter, he stated it was irrelevant, that it was for the disciples, only, and went on to the fourteenth chapter.

I am thankful for the Dunkard Brethren Church which believes that chapter is to be obeyed, or else we will have no part with Jesus.

How many denominations preach the need of the prayer veil, the Lord's Supper, non conformity, and so forth? Very, very few.

The pastor of the largest church in our vicinity stated over the radio, "There will be no foot-tubs in my church."

Another reason, why there is so much sin in the world today can be traced to the television. A number of prominent television and radio preachers proved to be immoral, deceiving many supporters and followers.

There are many other reasons.

False teachers, the blind (to the true Word of God) leading the blind, until both fall.

Another important factor contributing to the criminality of this world is illicit sex. I believe it is one of the biggest sins of the day. When parents and schools provide contraceptives to teenagers, they are putting the cart ahead of the horse. Their duty is to teach abstinence instead of prevention.

There are many more factors contributing to the criminality and immorality of the day. Suffice it to say, do as James tells us, "Keep thyself pure." I Tim. 2:22. Then we need not fear the day of judgment.

Brother Paul R. Myers
5005 Higbee Ave., NW
Canton, OH 44718

ON EARTH PEACE

Luke 2:14, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men."

Isaiah 9:6, "For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: ...and his name shall be called...The Prince of Peace."

Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God."

While violence has always been a part of life, it seems to have escalated in recent times. Perhaps it is only that we are made more aware of such action through the news media. The answer of the popular church movement to this violence is that all individuals of age should buy a weapon to protect themselves. The result of this is even more violence, including accidental killings of members of the family.

It is sad that the glorious message given by the angels is usually limited to once a year. Even then the message is combined with pagan rituals as people follow the "spirit of Christmas," which is often confused with the Holy Spirit.

The angels proclaimed, "Glory to God in the highest." This is where true peace begins. The prophecy of Isaiah was fulfilled. The Prince of Peace was now upon earth. Who was this Prince of Peace? According to Isaiah 9:6 His name shall also be called, "The mighty God" and "The everlasting Father." Truly this was and is Emmanuel, which being interpreted is, God with us! It should be enough to make us shout when we read, "And the angel said unto them, Fear not: for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, WHICH SHALL BE TO ALL PEOPLE. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord." Christmas trees and other pagan practices do not excite us but this news makes us feel like shouting, HALLELUJAH!

Next the angels proclaimed, "and on earth peace." It has been said that during the time that Jesus walked the earth there were no recorded wars fought. There is a time coming when wars will again cease to be fought. Not only wars, but all violence will come to an end. At this time Jesus Christ will be King of Kings and Lord of Lords. There is a sense in which Jesus Christ is already King and Lord. With truth we sing, "Joy to the world! the Lord IS COME." We need not wait for the millennial reign to proclaim, "Let earth receive her King." With truth, "Let every heart prepare him room." Yes, "He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the nations prove The glories of His righteousness, and wonders of His love."

The world can not know of this peace until they allow their hearts to prepare Him room. God's children, the Saints of God, known by the world as Christians, should have this peace in their hearts and be willing to share it with the world. It was not some church council or

denominational polity that taught, "Ye have heard that it hath been said, Thou shalt love thy neighbor, and hate thine enemy. But I say unto you, Love your enemies, bless them that curse you, do good to them that hate you, and pray for them which despitefully use you, and persecute you: THAT YE MAY BE THE CHILDREN OF YOUR FATHER WHICH IS IN HEAVEN:..." These words were given by the Lord Jesus Christ. You may choose to ignore these words, assign them to a future dispensation or classify them as ideals not able to be reached, but this will not change the expectations of God. The New Testament Church taught and practiced the doctrine of nonresistance.

Last of all the angels proclaimed, "good will toward men." In Romans 12:18 we are instructed, "If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men." Christians are not immune to violence. We can never live in complete peace. But WE CAN HAVE THE PEACE OF GOD IN OUR HEART and thus live a life of peace.

The greatest peace we can experience is that of our sins forgiven by the shed blood of Jesus Christ. Then truly we have on earth peace.

Brother James M. Hite
816 E. Birch St.
Palmyra, PA 17078-2704

SIXTY YEARS AGO

December 15, 1934
CHRIST'S MISSION TO THE INNER LIFE
D. W. Hostetler

What is the best service rendered to the world? Is it someone's sitting in the uppermost seat, getting a big salary, and telling others what to do? A real leader is one who goes before, as we find in John 10.

The very best service rendered is the proclamation of good news, which is the doctrine of the condition of pardon, faith, repentance, confession, and baptism. To comply with these conditions brings to the life of the individual the forgiveness of sin, which is the good news that the angel announced when the Christ was born. And this is the expression of God's love to the world, that He gave His Son to reconcile the world to Himself, in order to establish His church, the city of righteousness, that the life of Heaven may begin here on earth.

The mission of Christ is to the inner life of man. His ministry there was not in words alone, but in character and action. In all He did for man, the heart of His message was Himself, His life, His death. The key note of His message was sounded by the angel, "Peace on earth, good will to men."

The central gospel of His message is the reality and completeness

of peace with God through the forgiveness of sin. Forgiveness of sin brings with it the freedom and power of a new inner life of divine righteousness, which embraces a full, complete, and whole surrender to Him that He may take full and complete possession and absolute control of life.

There can be no real empire of peace, unless this deepest region is reached by Him. There must be no nook or corner or crevice of man's life unexplored, unsubdued, no lurking places of rebellion, no fountain of discord, in order that Christ may reach our innermost being. Hence, He is directing His journey toward the inner life of man, and on His way He has blazed the trail with love, kindness, goodness, long suffering, and compassion; even His own blood.

The doctrine of Jesus will widen the thought of man. When Christ has reached the innermost part of a man he has the mind of Christ and possession of this mind enables him to think within the scope of spiritual things. Thinking within the spiritual realm will enable him to discover the realities of the divine life of Christ.

The example of Jesus will crystalize the moral aspirations of man into a flawless and unperishable ideal. Jesus lived what He taught. The great doctrine of the remission of sin is the very center and heart of all His teachings. And in the 18th chapter of Matthew He reaches the climax of His teaching on this subject. He gives the law of trespass, and this leads Peter to raise the question of how many times he would be under obligation to forgive. This opens the way for Jesus to teach one of His most beautiful lessons: "Now as ye forgive men their trespasses, so will your heavenly father forgive you." Jesus reaches the climax in His teaching with the parable of the unmerciful debtor. So the very essence of Christianity is the great doctrine of faith, penitence, confession, repentance, and the remission of sin. This is the very purpose for which Jesus is making His way into the inner life.

The life of Jesus has struck the keynote for a new harmony of communion and fellowship. The spirit of Jesus has given inspiration and guidance to the finest philosophy, literature, and art; thus the influence of Jesus in our innermost being gives expression in the most beautiful. It is but natural and reasonable that the first, clearest and most enduring manifestation of Christ must be in the innermost region of man. If the impress of his character is deep, there cannot help being a very strong external manifestation of that that is within.

The trace of His presence must be most distinct and indelible in the record of spiritual experience. The dwelling of Jesus in the heart will bring to the surface the evidences of His purifying, harmonizing, saving power.

Jesus told the apostles, as we have it stated in Acts 1 that when

they would receive the Holy Ghost they would be witnesses for Him, to prove that He was the Christ, the Son of God. And for Christ to be within was a reality. Paul puts it this way: that it was not Paul that was living his life but that it was Christ within that enabled him to live the life he was living.

In the 15th chapter of John, Jesus says that when the Comforter is come, which is the spirit of truth, then the disciples should bear witness of Christ.

Paul in II Cor. 5 teaches us that if any man is in Christ he is a new creature. Old things then pass away. And he will lay hold of the "new order of things," which is the word of God; and that is his guide for the Christ life. By accepting Christ and the word of reconciliation, we become ambassadors of Him; and we are His representatives. Is the life we live a true representation of Christ? Jesus one time said, "Ye are the light of the world."

Being His ambassadors, we are representing His interests to the world. The things He is interested in is the salvation of sinners. Are we giving to the sinner the gospel that saves? It is the world's greatest need. The sinner must accept this "new order of things," in order that Christ can make His way into their inner lives. For we are told that all have sinned and come short of the glory of God. The message of Good news and glad tidings is to all. And it is the mission of the church to preach the gospel to the sinner. If, as Christ's ambassadors, we fail, how can Christ's spirit reach the inner life of sinners? "But how can they believe in Him whom they have not heard, and how can they hear without a preacher, and how can they preach except they be sent?" So it is the business of the church to send preachers that will preach the gospel, and may the church ever be diligent in seeing that the preachers do preach the gospel of the Son of God.

DO WE SEE JESUS?

"And their eyes were opened, and they knew him; and he vanished out of their sight." Luke 24:31.

"But we see Jesus, who was made a little lower than the angels for the suffering of death, crowned with glory and honour; that he by the grace of God should taste death for every man."

I have known a certain brother in the church for over twenty years. I see him perhaps three or four times a year. We are always glad and happy to see one another, but he never recognizes me and never remembers my name. I am far from being an ordinary looking person and it is difficult for me to understand how someone can forget who I am, but I suppose it is possible. However, I do not believe anyone,

after first meeting Jesus, would ever forget Him. We have often said that not everyone that meets Jesus becomes converted, but no one is ever the same. It is not important that you know me, but it is worth more than the world to know Jesus.

After being in His presence over three years, the disciples did not recognize their Master because He was able to make it so. Many places in the gospels Jesus clouded men's minds so as to disappear into the crowd. It is also possible for Jesus to make Himself VISIBLE to us. The scripture above says that their eyes were opened, and they knew Him. Now they had not been walking around with their eyes closed, or even in a state of blindness. They were, however, blind to Jesus' presence. He made them think that He was someone else. Then, when the time was right, He allowed them to recognize Him. They KNEW Him. Do we KNOW Him? I do not ask you if you know who He is, or who He claims to be, but do you know Him?

The verb, "to know" indicates a recognition. It also indicates an intimacy. The church's relationship to Christ is often compared to a bride and groom. A married couple over time knows one another on every level: physically, spiritually, mentally. Their knowledge of one another grows, and if there is love in the union the couple becomes one on all levels. The Christian's relationship with Christ likewise grows. When we pray, when we study the scriptures, and when we live the Christian life daily we get closer to Jesus. We become one with Him. This does not mean we become perfect in the flesh, because as long as we are in the flesh we will fall occasionally, but He will lift us.

Do we know Him? Do we desire to know Him? Do not be satisfied with a mere church membership. Seek Him daily with all your heart. Many stop seeking after they come out of the water. He has given us the Holy Spirit to teach us and be our companion. With the Holy Spirit we need not be like the disciples, who did not recognize Jesus. We will know Him.

Do you know Him?

Brother Lynn H. Miller
RD 2 Box 561
Newmanstown, PA 17073

THE DECEIT USED DURING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Matt. 6:33, "But seek ye first the kingdom of God, and his righteousness; and all these things shall be added unto you."

Do these words have a meaning to you or are they just another proverb? No, they are words of Jesus. With power He said what He meant. He did not say go to worldly places of amusement but He taught the things of Heaven and the Way. He said, "...I am the way,

the truth, and the life: no man cometh unto the Father, but by me."

How can men teach men otherwise when He gave this commandment? Things of that sort do not fit my faith or belief. Satan is on the loose seeking whom he may devour.

Jesus came to destroy the works of the Devil. He can not destroy the works of the Devil in your life unless you let Him into your heart! You must allow Him in to have His way and you must obey the word spoken.

How can you go where you should not and leave such an influence for your neighbors and CHURCH to see and talk about?

I Cor. 10:31, "Whether therefore ye eat, or drink, or whatsoever ye do, do all to the glory of God."

The day set apart as Christmas is not being used to worship Christ. It is a merchant's day used as a pocket filler. Some merchants would not be happy with a change. A just God is not happy with the lies that are being used to sell for gain.

Christ wants everyone to give Him the Glory and praise. I know I am guilty too. I do not think that I am free, for I need this message as well as others.

How can people disgrace the deer that God created for food for men by placing them on the roof or in a yard with a sleigh and a statue of a little old man with a big white beard and a bag of toys? It disgraces the man as well as the deer. It PROVES MAN'S DESIRE to worship IDOLS as well as an ignorance of GOD'S Word. It proves also His UNWILLINGNESS to obey God.

Rev. 2:24, "But unto you I say, and unto the rest in Thyatira, as many as have not this doctrine, and which have not known the depths of Satan, as they speak; I will put upon you none other burden."

Brother Lester Bittinger
Rt. 2 Box 120E
Mt. Solon, VA 22843

OBITUARY

MAUDE J. HEISEY

Sister Maude J. Heisey, formerly of Fremont, Ohio and a resident of the Good Shepherd Nursing Home, Fostoria, Ohio, passed away October 16, 1994, at 11:00 A.M. at the Good Shepherd Home. She was born January 1, 1903, in Bradner, Ohio to Albert and Ella (Smith) Webb.

In 1921 she was married to Harry W. Smith. To this union was born one son, Harry J. Smith. After four years of marriage her husband passed away July 2, 1925.

In 1946 she married Lester Heisey. He passed away August 30, 1950. Sister Maude was preceded in death by her parents, husbands, five brothers, William, Allen, Arthur, Robert, and George Webb, five sisters, Ada Whitman, Olive Stewart, Hattie Bickelhaupt, Mable Auchman, and Cecyle Smith. She leaves to mourn her son, Harry of Fremont, four grandchildren, ten great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild.

In 1970 she retired from the Memorial Hospital in Fremont, as a nurses aid. Sister Maude was a very faithful member of the West Fulton Dunkard Brethren Church of Wauseon, Ohio, and will be greatly missed by all.

Services were conducted on Wednesday, October 19, 1994, at 1:00 P.M. at the Harrold-Floreana Funeral Home in Fostoria, by Bro. William Carpenter and Bro. H. Edward Johnson.

Burial was in Fountain Cemetery in Fostoria, Ohio.

NEWS ITEMS

PRESIDING ELDERS

Now is the time to send all changes that affect the standing information concerning your congregation(s), that will appear in the February 1, 1995, issue. Please have this information in the Editor's hands by January 10, 1995. Thank you.

DAYTON, VIRGINIA

The churchhouse of the Dayton Congregation, will be closed from the second Sunday of January until the third Sunday of March.

We will be having Sunday School in our homes. Anyone coming please call Bro. Lester Bittinger 1-703-350-3097, or Bro. Wilber Uplinger 1-703-828-6858, to find out at which home it will be.

Sister Lizetta Bittinger, Cor.

SWALLOW FALLS, MARYLAND

We are thankful that the Lord has permitted the Swallow Falls Church to have another August revival and have Bro. and Sis. Paul Hartz for the first three services and Bro. and Sis. Virgil Leatherman for the remaining seven services. Brothers Hartz and Leatherman did not decline to preach the whole Gospel throughout the meetings to a

nice, attentive audience. August 28 we met for Lovefeast with nineteen surrounding the Lord's table with Bro. Paul Nell of the Walnut Grove Congregation officiating.

We want to thank all visitors who came during the meeting and to the Lovefeast. We are few in number and solicit your presence and your prayers that we might remain and grow spiritually as the days come and go.

We truly are living in the last of this dispensation. We are facing the wrath from both men and God. He is going to destroy the wicked who will not hear nor heed His commandments. The years ahead will be worse than the flood or Sodom and Gomorrah. It is very necessary that we love not the world nor the things that are in the world, neither allow worldly company to lead us astray. "Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world. And the world passeth away, and the lust thereof: but he that doeth the will of God abideth for ever." I John 2:15-17.

So let us come out from among the world and let our lights shine for Christ. We should not cover them with worldly attire or actions but live as we are taught in the Bible, so when Christ comes He will attire us in spiritual garments of pure white linen without spot or wrinkle. What a happy day when we meet in eternity with our righteous ancestors and all the redeemed of all ages. I believe in Heaven the memory of the lost will be erased, but not so in hell where I believe that people will have just as much memory as did the rich man of Luke 16 who is, no doubt, still lamenting his fate.

"Are you ready for the judgment? Soul no longer idly wait." Today is the day of salvation. Fast, pray, draw closer to Him now, tomorrow may be too late. We dare not play Christianity.

Submitted with concern.

Sister Ruth M. Snyder, Cor.

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1995

January 1 - Bondage in Egypt - Exodus 1:1-22.

1. How does God turn affliction into blessing today?
2. Does God bless even the heathen for fearing Him?

January 8 - Moses, Son of Pharaoh's Daughter - Exodus 2:1-25.

1. Why did Pharaoh's daughter have compassion for a Hebrew baby?
2. What was God's purpose in allowing Hebrew slavery?

January 15 - Moses in Midian - Exodus 3:1-22.

1. What is God's name?
2. How did God transfer Egyptian riches to His people?

January 22 - God Instructs Moses - Exodus 4:1-17.

1. Name the three signs proving God's calling of Moses.
2. Why did God provide Moses with a spokesman?

January 29 - Moses Returns to Egypt - Exodus 4:18-31.

1. Why was Moses' rod now called the Rod of God?
2. How did the children of Israel respond to Moses?

YOUNG PEOPLE'S SUNDAY SCHOOL LESSONS FOR JANUARY 1995

January 1 - Our Birthright - Gen. 25:27-34, John 7:38-39, 8:27-28,
Heb. 11:24-26, 12:16-17.

1. How did Esau despise his birthright?
2. In what ways can we despise or sell our spiritual birthright?

January 8 - The New Birth - Ezek. 36:26-28, John 1:13, 3:3-8, Rom.
6:4-6, II Cor. 5:17, I Peter 1:23-25.

1. Who is the parent in this new birth?
2. What is the purpose of being born again?

January 15 - Baptism of Christ - Matt. 3:13-17, Luke 3:21-23, Jn 1:29-38

1. Why was Jesus baptized?
2. Explain the presence of the trinity at Jesus' birth.

January 22 - Christian Perfection - Gen. 17:1-2, Matt. 5:48, 19:21-30,
II Cor. 13:11, James 1:4, 2:21-24, 3:2, Heb. 6:11.

1. What is God's definition of perfection?
2. How can our faith be made perfect?

January 29 - Investments - Matt. 6:19-24, Luke 12:29-37,
Phil. 3:12-14, Rev. 3:16-18.

1. What are Spiritual treasures?
2. Where can real treasures be found?

